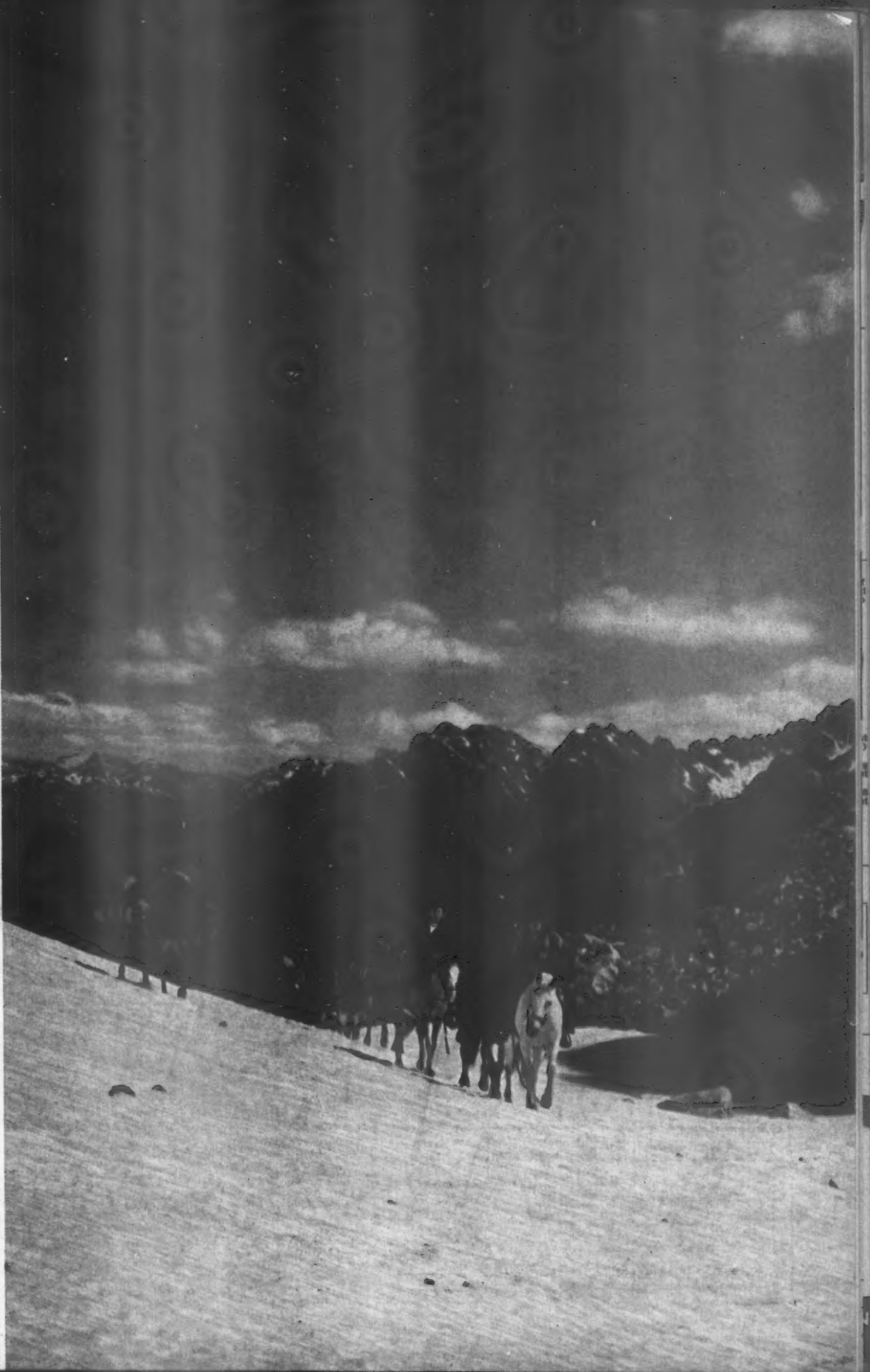


EMBER  
953

# AMERICAN BULLETIN

40  
CENTS



**Eddie BAUER**  
BLIZZARD-PROOF

# Down

DIRECT FROM FACTORY TO YOU

My genuine, 100% down-insulated garments and sleeping robes are famous throughout the world. They are products of a quarter century of pioneering. I was first in America to use down insulation—other manufacturers have followed—but there is only one original and genuine **Eddie BAUER** line. It is made by skilled craftsmen under my personal supervision in my own factory. Its patented construction is so superior that I have never been forced to seek a market through dealers or middle men.

**Eddie BAUER** insulated garments and sleeping robes are available *only direct from my factory*. By selling direct I maintain highest possible quality at realistic low prices. Make your selections with care because my 100% pure down garments and sleeping robes last a lifetime.



**TAKE A TIP FROM THE BIRDS**

**GO LIGHT!** 100% Northern water-fowl down, the insulating material used in **Eddie BAUER** garments, provides the *lightest, warmest things on earth.* It is far superior to anything created by man for insulation against cold, and is unquestionably the best material provided by nature.

*It breathes!*—retains normal dry body heat, dissipates frost-conducting dampness, prevents penetration of outside cold.

**Eddie BAUER** down-insulated garments give comfort in moderate weather and warmth at sub-zero temperatures.

**Eddie BAUER**



**YUKON**

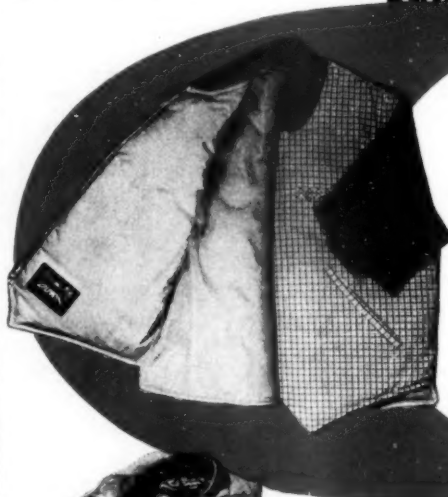
My most popular 100% down-insulated coat for all-season, all-purpose outdoor wear.

Down-insulated body and sleeves. Concealed wool knit wristlets. Beaver finish mouton fur collar. Full zipper. Bellows front pockets with lined, side-opening hand warmers underneath.

Dead Grass, Smoke, or Scarlet. MEN'S SIZES 36 to 50. WOMEN'S SIZES 10 to 22

**\$4450**

add 75c shipping charges



**Exclusive New SPORTS VEST**

- 100% down-insulated body for warmth.
- Special elastic wool knit sleeves for arm and shoulder freedom.
- Average size vest weighs only 30 ozs.

Dead Grass, Smoke, or Forest Green. Check with harmonizing knitwear.

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SIZES: 36 to 48

The rifleman and outdoorsman can shrug his shoulders at the weather with this distinctive vest. Outer back visibly quilted in square design. Elastic wool knit collar and sleeves. Full zipper. Slash hand warmer pockets and zippered breast pocket. Ideal for all sports and casual wear.



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Scarlet with Scarlet fur. Dead Grass or Smoke with beaver finish fur.

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SIZES: Small, medium, or large.



**Canadian VEST**

"Rough-and-ready" quality-constructed vest for rifleman and active outdoorsmen.

Quilted squares hold 100% down insulation in place for all-over body warmth and comfort. Elastic wool knit collar. Full zipper. Slash hand warmer pockets.

Dead Grass, Smoke, or Scarlet.

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add 50c shipping charges

SIZES: 36 to 48

**Eddie BAUER GARMENTS**

ARE MADE TO LAST A LIFETIME

- 100% down insulation.
- Water-repellent Egyptian cotton twill outer covers.
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GIVE SUIT SIZE WHEN ORDERING.



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Immediate Shipment Direct From Factory To You

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My complete catalog of 100% down-insulated garments and sleeping robes (also lists my new insulation) mailed FREE on request.



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I guarantee that each item you buy from me will meet with your complete approval. You be the judge! If you are not completely satisfied, return the merchandise and the full purchase price will be refunded promptly.

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*Eddie Bauer*

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SCOPE**

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Scope of

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COMFORT
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**NEW SEAL-TITE CONSTRUCTION**—Most nearly complete air-tight construction ever offered in a spotting scope . . . made possible by new sealing method, and the fact that all adjusting movement is *internal*.

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**FUN FOR THE FAMILY TOO!** In addition to use as a spotting scope, the B&L *Balscope Sr.* 60mm Scope can be used by the entire family.\* For vacation trips . . . sports events . . . amateur astronomy . . . bird lore . . . or just "looking around," this scope will give you big, bright, close-up views. At your summer home—or city apartment—you'll find it television's greatest rival!

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OPTICAL COMPANY



ROCHESTER 2, N. Y.



# AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

★ 1885-1888 The Rifle ★ 1888-1906 Shooting and Fishing ★ 1906-1923 Arms and the Man

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Vol. 101, No. 12 December 1953

## THE NRA

The National Rifle Association of America is a nonprofit organization supported by the membership fees of public-spirited citizens. Its purposes are to educate and train citizens of good repute in the safe and efficient handling of firearms; to foster a knowledge of small arms and the ability to use them among members of law enforcement agencies and the armed services, and all other citizens who would be subject to service in the event of war; to promote social welfare and public safety, law and order, and the national defense. Membership in NRA is available to any reputable citizen of the United States upon nomination by a current member.

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## CONTENTS

AN EDITORIAL.....	16
THE ARMY'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL WEAPON. Major James W. Campbell	17
WHERE DO YOU SHOOT?.....	20
"IN MY ARMS COLLECTION".....	22
RIFLE TRAINING IN BRITAIN..... Jac Weller	23
RANDOM SHOTS IN THE SHOOTING WORLD..... a feature	26
1954 ANNUAL MEETING.....	28
THE SCHOFIELD-SMITH & WESSON..... Herschel C. Logan	29
A VILLAGE OF GUNSMITHS.....	32
"HERE'S HOW I DID IT".....	34
RIFLES FOR THE BIG BEAR..... Jay Williams	35
HOW IMPROVED IS IT?..... William F. Wieman	39
AFTER YOU'VE BOUGHT A SHOTGUN? ..... Photos by Sid Latham	40
SHOOTING AT OHIO UNIVERSITY..... Alan William	42
ELECTRIC BEDDING, DO'S AND DON'TS..... George J. Stidworthy	43
CATALOOCHEE BEEF SHOOT..... Carlos Vinson	44
THE SPOTTING SCOPE..... a feature	46
NRA NEWS AND ACTIVITIES..... a feature	48
DOPE BAG..... a feature	58
THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN INDEX, 1953.....	81

## COVER

*Clear weather and well-packed snow add to the expectations of this party as it wends its way into the sheep country high in Washington State's Cascade Mountains. Transparency by Chester Chatfield*



THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN is published monthly by The National Rifle Association of America, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. for the benefit of its members. Domestic Rates (North, South, and Central America) \$4.00 a year, \$7.00 for two years, \$10 for three years; elsewhere add 80 cents per year for foreign postage. Copyright 1953, National Rifle Association of America. All rights reserved. Entered as second-class matter, April 1, 1908, at the post office at Washington, D. C. under act of March 3, 1879. For change of address, give both new address and old address as it appears on address label. Not responsible for loss of or damage to unsolicited manuscripts or photographs.

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**NEW...SENSATIONAL**



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... Brighter, Clearer Image... Independent, Micron-atic reticle adjustments... Protective sunshades... Removable ends for solid ring mounting... Ability to stand rough usage... Sleek streamlined beauty.

**SCOPEMASTER SPECIFICATIONS**

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Actual Magnification	4.05	2.58	6.12
Dia. Obj. Lens	32MM	30.5MM	42MM
Dia. Exit Pupil	8MM	8MM	7MM
Field at 100 Yards	33 ft.	40 ft.	30 ft.
Eye Relief	3 1/4" - 4 1/4"	3 1/4" - 5"	3 1/4" - 4"
Dia. of Tube	1"	1"	1"
Length	11 1/4"	10 1/2"	13 1/2"
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Weight	9 oz.	8 oz.	10 oz.

MOUNTING: The Scopemaster is adapted for most standard 1" mounts recommended for your rifle.

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*Old Nick*

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 If you are counting on a Scopemaster this fall, go to your nearest Bushnell dealer now. In case he can't mount one immediately, it will pay you to wait. Don't be disappointed. Reserve yours today!

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Name.....

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Boot size and width.....  
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## INCIDENTALLY.....

### Reading and Writing

Before leaving old friends to come to NRA headquarters as RIFLEMAN Editor, I made it a point to find out what they, as NRA members, thought about THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN.

Almost without exception each reader friend said he wanted to see more articles on his favorite subjects.

The avid tournament shooter felt that more space should be devoted to articles dealing with shooting techniques, match operation, and club activities.

Scattergun-users observed that, as a large practical gunning group, they should have more articles on shotguns and shotgun sports such as skeet, trap, and newer variations like the "Quail Walk," where actual hunting conditions are closely simulated.

Amateur gunsmiths felt that space devoted to much other than pure "how to do it" was a waste of paper and printer's ink.

The professional gunsmiths, on the other hand, could see little reason for devoting pages to reporting anything but the more advanced techniques of trouble shooting and repair.

Even the general interest readers were divided as to what should be THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN's editorial content. Some held that more factual but entertaining hunting pieces should be made part of each issue. Others said that THE RIFLEMAN was the only magazine that the technically minded gun enthusiast could turn to for gilt-edged data on firearms and ammunition.

The first day at my desk I spoke at length on this subject of reader preference with our Managing Editor, John Harper.

John had many interesting comments on the matter of editorial content and I wish this space would allow a full treatment. His remarks, based on many years of observation, however, summed up pretty much like this:

"When I came with the NRA we had 55,000 members, most of whom were either target shooters or top-flight gun enthusiasts. After World War II NRA membership increased rapidly until today we are approaching the 300,000 member-reader mark. We have carefully observed all mail from this constantly increasing number of members and have been guided by it in tailoring the editorial content of THE RIFLEMAN. There is never an issue that comes out about which we do not receive brickbats and bouquets regarding the selection of editorial material. We are always pleased to receive these letters and regard them highly.

"Many letters of praise or criticism are pages in length, but rarely does the letter writer think of himself as a contributor on a subject of his preference. Perhaps this is because our readers assume that we have a 'secret source' for

editorial material. Nothing could be further from the situation. An analysis of RIFLEMAN articles, by authors, over the years shows that better than 80 percent of all material comes from NRA members—shooters, gunsmiths, hand-loaders, tinkerers, hunters, club members, collectors, and just gun enthusiasts.

"Unfortunately, very little of this material comes in unsolicited. In the main, we have to constantly encourage those individuals whom we believe have something worthwhile to report. Admittedly, it is the duty of a magazine editor to go out and 'beat the bushes' for suitable editorial material. But making the initial contact with prospective contributors is by no means easy.

"We know that among our thousands of readers there are many who have something worthwhile to write about, but just never get around to it. I think we should continually emphasize the fact that we are 'in the market' for many types of editorial material and photographs. Let's encourage them to send in for our Writers' and Photographers' Guide Sheet which tells what we want, what we pay, and how their writing efforts should be directed in order to 'sell' to us."

There is little I need add to Harper's remarks, other than to invite you to send in your manuscripts. If you are uncertain as to our requirements, just drop us a line requesting our "Writers' Guide Sheet." It will be sent to you at once.—W. J. Howr.

### A Special "Thank You"

In reading over THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN and Tournament News accounts of this year's National Trophy Matches at Camp Perry, we notice a disturbing omission. Nowhere in print was full and proper credit given to the Army Ordnance Corps for the many services they provided. Certainly this was not due to Ordnance Corps personnel or equipment being in the background. Rather, the Ordnance people performed their tasks so smoothly that we 'forgot' them in the press of compiling and editing Camp Perry copy. Army Ordnance took care of the shooters in grand style, and deserve a 'special thanks.'—M. A. E.

### Welcome

We are pleased to welcome the Tennessee Gun Collectors Association, the latest to affiliate with the NRA. They are holding a meeting at the Blue Flame Room, Gas Company, 017 Church Street, Nashville, Tenn., on December 10. Contact Mr. M. H. Parks, 1100 Montrose Avenue, Nashville 4, for additional information.



**"THEIR LETTERS  
Insist  
ON IT!"**



"Ship at once 2 Pair UNITED 7 x 50 Center Focus. Just received so pleased I sold these two pair and probably another in about 15 minutes." R. F. Eustis, Florida.

"The 20 Power Telescope I bought a year ago is a source of endless seeing pleasure. It more than deserves the UNITED SEAL of QUALITY." J. C. S., Rock Island, Ill.

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Your Christmas gift orders shipped AIRMAIL same day received. Add to price Pocket Binoculars \$1.00; 6x, 8x, 15 - 40x Telescope—\$2.00; 7x, 10x, 12x, 16x, 20x—\$3.00; .22 Rifle, 40x Uni-Scope \$4.00.



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World's Lightest  
**16 OZ! \$69.50**

Only 8" high, yet has a LARGER FIELD (405 feet at 1000 yards)! Lens are made of famous JENA GLASS known the world over for its great light transmitting power. All internal optics are COATED! Water-Dust resistant.

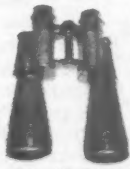
**6 x 30 15 OZ. GERMAN \$55.00**

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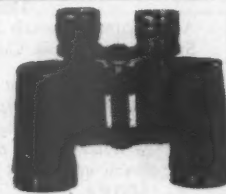
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3 1/2" x 6 1/2" Very fine field of view. Water-Dust Resistant

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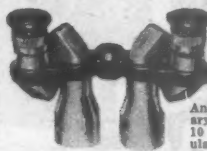
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525 FOOT FIELD!

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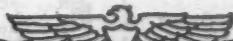
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## RICOCHETS

..... from the editor's desk

### HONK THOSE MALLARDS

Dover, N. H.

Editor:

The large mallards shown on page 39 of the November issue were really unusual. In fact I could only see one or two that might be ducks. Guess those geese chased them away before the shutter clicked.

HARRY C. CHENEY, JR.

Okanogan, Wash.

Editor:

I've seen worse errors. How about the man who killed and dressed out a burro thinking it was a mule deer?

Congratulations on your very good magazine.

BOB THORSON

Fort Edward, N. Y.

Editor:

You will undoubtedly receive at least two hundred other letters about this, but except for the birds on the extreme right, those mallards pictured on page 39 look very much like Canada Geese to me. It's still a good picture.

DON C. STANTON

Asst. Game Research Investigator,  
State of New York Conservation Dept.

*We don't like to kick a man when he is down—even if he is a caption writer who calls geese, ducks. Hence, we have not counted the letters. The pile is about two inches high now and is still growing.—Ed.*

### ARTICLE PREFERENCES

New York, N. Y.

Editor:

I like THE RIFLEMAN very much the way it is. It is a very well-balanced magazine. To those who want all technical stuff, I say, "Go read the logarithmic tables."

Also, keep up the fight against restrictive arms legislation and for marksmanship training. It is very important to our future to

have a citizenry that knows what weapons are like and how to shoot them.

DAVID E. WADE

Dumont, New Jersey

Editor:

The hunting stories do not appeal to me but your articles on gun history and gun experiments do. Of course, you cannot please all members with each issue, but it is gratifying to have one especially to my liking on occasion.

STERLING A. GREEN

Norfolk, Virginia

Editor:

Just a line to let you all know how much we appreciate the old-time articles in THE RIFLEMAN. Any time you can find a new one or one from an old issue way back to publish, it will be gratefully received here.

Also, I'm glad to see the pictures of the Board of Directors in the November issue. Pythagoras was supposed to be able to read character in peoples faces, and to me it seems that all I viewed in the last issue were all devoted Americans.

HORACE B. WEAVER

Danville, Virginia

Editor:

I have been a reader of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN for several years now and have been greatly pleased with my subscription. However, I feel that too much attention has been given to the highly technical and specialized aspects of shooting. I, personally, would like to see more articles like the one on turkey shoots in the November issue (page 40). Articles of this type have an appeal to the vast majority of sportsmen who don't particularly care for handloading, minutes of angles, etc.

I greatly enjoyed the article on Japanese firearms in the November issue.

JOHN L. JENKINS

(Continued on page 8)

### THERE IS STILL TIME!

**T**HIS issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN is loaded, in both the editorial and advertising sections, with pictures and descriptions of items that make grand gifts for sportsmen. We know so well that shooters and shooters-to-be would, in most cases, rather have a new gun, a new gun book, a new scope, or one of scores of other shooting items; than anything else for Christmas. So, if you want something special as a gift for a shooting enthusiast, or for yourself, why not pencil mark its picture or description as you look through this issue. You'll make some people happier this Christmas if you do; and, whether you're giving or getting, one of them definitely will be you!—THE EDITORS.



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**THOMAS G. SAMWORTH**  
 Georgetown 7, South Carolina

**RICOCHETS** from page 6

Winchester, Illinois

Editor:

How are we ever going to make our country once again "a nation of riflemen" with such articles as "Safari Rifles" in the November issue (page 27).

Most of us are concerned with keeping the family happy while we spend the grocery money for match entry fees and a carton or so of some hot ammo!

I would like to see more articles on the target rifle shooting game which is within the reach of the average reader.

M. H. BANNER

Loomis, California

Editor:

As a shooter for some 35 years and NRA Life Member for some 5 or 6 years, I should like to get a few comments off my chest.

As to the general make-up of **THE RIFLEMAN** I haven't any complaint, but would enjoy it more if a little less space were given to highly technical articles and articles on formal target competition, and more space given to hunting and other 'practical' uses of guns.

BRUCE M. DOCK

Bechtelsville, Penna.

Editor:

Incidentally, I am always a little dismayed that you do not query readers on their preferences in the matter of **THE RIFLEMAN**'s contents. Personally, I am as often disappointed on the selection of articles as I am delighted. For the record, here's what one reader is interested in: Smallbore target shooting; varmint rifles, ammunition; hand-loading; wildcatting; rifle accuracy; long-range target shooting and hunting; bench-rest shooting, rifles and other equipment; bench-rest meets; articles on African and big-game hunting, with emphasis on arms and ammunition. I am not interested in organizations, in clubs, in firearms history, in the hunting angle of hunting, in gun collecting, in the Army, in hunting casualties, in shotgun shooting, in shooting novelties, in gunsmithing, or pages of pictures. I do, however, appreciate the NRA's efforts versus bad gun legislation.

G. CALVIN CHRISTMAN

The above letters are representative of the many received each month. We publish these to show you how some of the other readers feel about "The Rifleman" editorial content. Our aim is for optimum variety in each issue but with emphasis, spacewise, on subjects of widest interest and importance. What you as an NRA member say is important to us. And it can be profitable to you if you read and heed page 4.—Ed.

**BOLD STATEMENTS?**

Topoka, Kansas

Editor:

I am writing to protest the statements made by Nash Buckingham in your October issue (page 43) and your editorial policy in allowing such uncomplimentary statements to be made, regardless of their accuracy or inaccuracy. We are informed by Mr. Buckingham that nothing smaller than a 12 gauge should be used and anyone who

(Continued on page 10)

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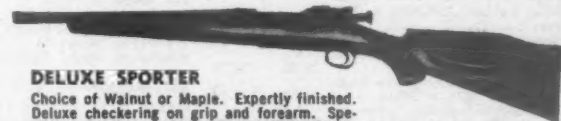
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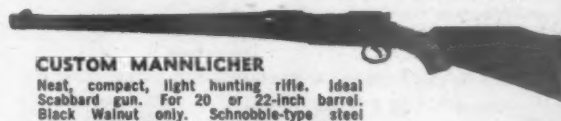
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Rem. M/721 Bolt Action, Caliber .270 and .30-06	32.00	88.35
Rem. M/722 Bolt Action, Caliber .257 and .300 Savage	21.00	82.80
Savage M/340 Bolt Action, Cal. .30-30 CARBINE	12.25	48.75
Marlin M/336 CARBINE & Sporter-Carbino, Cal. .30-30 & .32 Spe.	17.00	68.95
Marlin M/336 Carbine .35 Rem.	20.00	78.95
Marlin M/336 Lever Action Rifle, Caliber .30-30 & .32 Special	21.00	83.95
Marlin M/336 Lever Action Rifle, Caliber .35 Remington	22.50	89.95
Savage M/99 EG Lever Action Rifle, Caliber .250-3000 & .300 Sav.	27.50	109.00
Savage M/99 R5 Lever Action, High comb, Cal. .250-3000 & .300 Sav.	31.00	124.50
FN Mauser Bolt Action, Less Rear Sight, Cal. .270 & .30-06	35.00	137.50
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Colt Sport Woodsman	17.50	70.00
Colt Challenger	13.00	52.50
High Standard Sport King	11.00	44.00
High Standard Field King	15.00	59.00
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Colt Officers Model	\$20.00	\$79.75
Smith & Wesson Masterpiece	18.00	71.50
S & W Combat Masterpiece	18.00	71.50
Colt Official Police	16.50	65.00
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Colt Super .38	\$16.50	\$65.00
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Sith Bear Cub, 4 Power Master	14.00	55.00
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## RICOCHETS from page 8

uses a smaller gauge is 'flaunting an ego' and in so doing is instrumental in creating the diminishing supply of game birds and waterfowl.

Now, I don't appreciate Mr. Buckingham's bold statements. When the Kansas pheasant season opens I'll be there with my Browning full-choked 20-gauge automatic and, so help me, I'll do just as well if not better than most of the 'zulu' toters. When quail season rolls around out comes my (shudder, Mr. Buckingham) Winchester Model 42 .410 pump.

My advice to Mr. Buckingham (and I'm assuming he accepts advice as readily as he gives it) is, since he is so impressed with the performance of a 12 gauge he should investigate the potentialities of a 10 gauge. Surely, pursuing his logic, it should leave even fewer cripples than the 12.

DONALD H. JOHNSON

Your observations are interesting. However, I believe that Buckingham expresses some thoughts that are not without merit or foundation in fact. Also, he says (in speaking of the 20 gauge and 16 gauge guns) "a good 'pointer' can get reasonable results on upland birds or waterfowl under 40 true yards."—Ed.

## WONDERFUL TIME

Kingston, Surrey, England

Editor:

I read with interest the 'leader' in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN (page 4, October 1953) concerning the British team and I would be indebted if you would thank everybody at Perry for the very wonderful time they gave us as a whole and individually while there to shoot the Pershing Trophy Match.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our visit. We envy the American shooter the wonderful equipment that is readily available and were filled with admiration by their shooting. Our boys won't take the beating lying down, and will be ready to come out shooting better than ever in the next Pershing Trophy competition, and there will, I hope, be a next time.

JOHN C. KNOTT

## WE APOLOGIZE

Certain errors were made in the listing of the Directors of the National Rifle Association in the November 1953 issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN.

The names of Major General Milton A. Reckord, AG of Maryland, and J. Herbert Hollister of Boulder, Colorado, were misspelled.

Richard S. Boutelle, Hagerstown, Maryland, is president of the Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation. John R. Lang lives in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

We are very sorry this happened and take this opportunity to apologize to the Directors concerned.—M. A. E.

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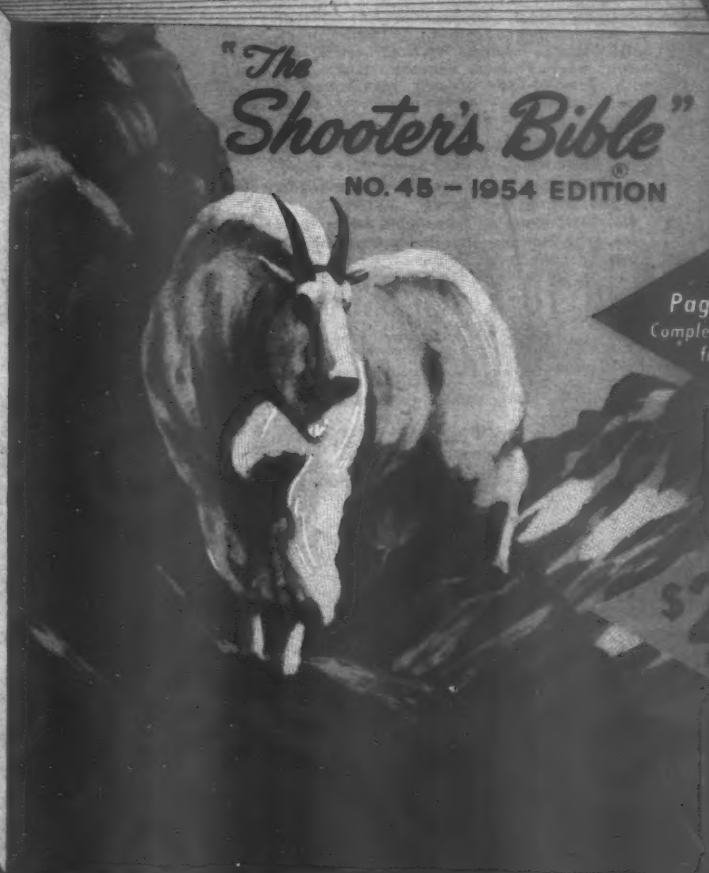
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**About the  
AUTHORS**

**MAJOR JAMES W. CAMPBELL**

Major Campbell, author of "The Army's Most Controversial Weapon", page 17, is Chief of the Army Public Information Division's Feature Branch. A staff writer, bureau manager, and wire editor for United Press before his return to active duty, he has written articles for numerous publications and has recently completed a training manual for public information officers.

Although Major Campbell carried a .45 throughout World War II, his real interest in the pistol began as a desire to find someone who actually used it effectively in combat. At the outset he entertained no thought of writing on the subject. It made a good topic of conversation and he brought the subject up at every opportunity. But, as a result, some interesting facts and comments emerged which Major Campbell presents in this issue.

**JAC WELLER**

Mr. Weller, author of "Rifle Training in Britain", page 23, is a mechanical engineer by profession with a well-grounded knowledge of ballistics, ordnance, and fire arms history.

He is a member of the American Ordnance Association and, because of his knowledge of military weapons, has done a great deal of work in connection with the West Point Museum. His own collection of American Civil War weapons and projectiles is among the finest private collections in the country.

While on a recent trip to England, Mr. Weller, at the request of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, visited the Small Arms School at Hythe to gather material for his article in this issue.

**JAY WILLIAMS**

Mr. Williams, author of "Rifles for the Big Bear", page 35, is a real Alaskan southerner. His acquaintance with Alaska began soon after the turn of the century. For thirty years he worked in the U. S. Forest Service there and after his retirement did professional guiding. During World War II he was Adjutant General of the Territory of Alaska.

Hunting, trapping, and prospecting for many years in some of the best bear country in the Territory, he has had unlimited opportunity to study Alaskan bears.

**PICTURE CREDITS**

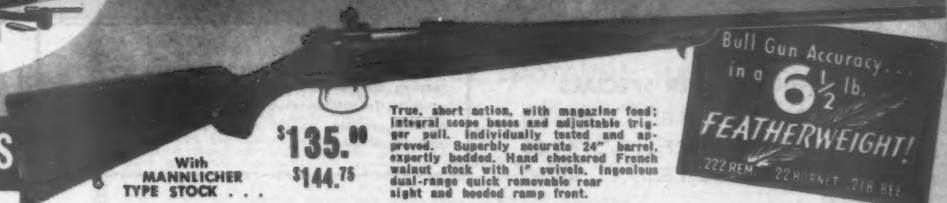
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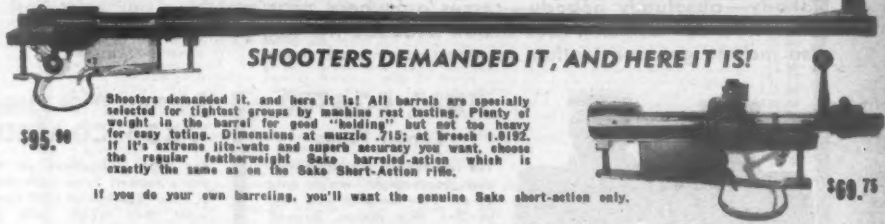
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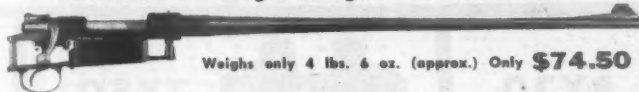
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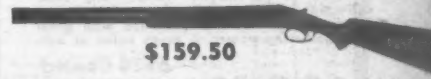
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\*OCTOBER 1953 "AMERICAN RIFLEMAN" PAGE 51

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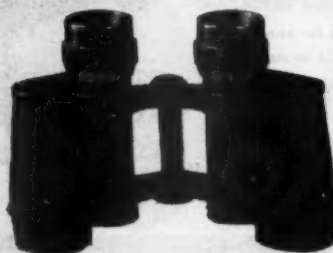
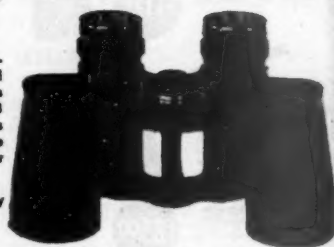
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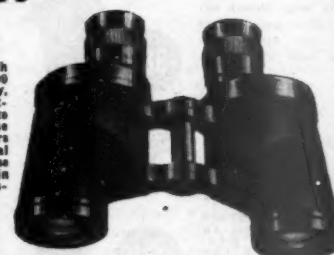
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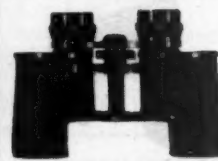
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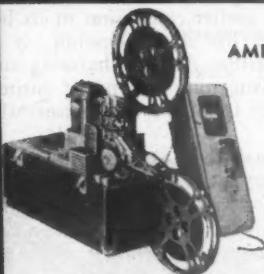


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The following cameras cannot be told from new, and carry our new guarantee	
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Leica IIIF with F. 2 Summicron lens, just like new	Sale- \$119.50
Eastman Reflex IIA with F. 2 coated lens	Sale- \$ 75.00
Eastman Pony 135 camera	Sale- \$ 27.50
Rolleicord camera with 3.5 lens, latest model	Sale- \$119.50
Bell & Howell Regent 800 watt 8mm. projector	Sale- \$135.00
Revere 500 watt model 85 deluxe projector	Sale- \$ 89.75
Polaroid Land camera.	Sale- \$ 89.50
Kodak Signet 35mm	Sale- \$ 69.50
Belos 8mm. Hi8 with new lens	Sale- \$195.00
Stereo Realist three dimension camera	Sale- \$129.50
Brand new 1 1/2 inch F. 3.8 coated telephoto lens focusing mount for most 8 mm. cameras.	Sale- \$ 14.95
Brand new 7 mm. F. 1.9 wide angle lens for most 8mm. cameras	Sale- \$ 17.50
Brand new 6 1/2 mm. F. 2.5 wide angle lens for most 8mm. cameras	Sale- \$ 25.00
Revere magazine 8mm. movie camera 2.5 lens, excellent	Sale- \$ 39.50
DeVry 16mm. sound projector, good condition	Sale- \$ 85.00
Victor 16mm. sound projector, good condition	Sale- \$119.50
Bausch & Lomb 7 x 35 prism binocular, shopworn	Sale- \$ 55.00
Bausch & Lomb 6 x 30 prism binocular, shopworn	Sale- \$149.50

# NATIONAL CAMERA EXCHANGE

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## “A Boy and His Rifle”

As December 25th draws closer, many a father will be shopping around for a dog or a rifle to give to his son on Christmas Day. The typical American boy wants both, and both, since the days of our first Colonial ancestors, have been his traditional companions.

The boy who gets a dog for Christmas seldom has to be told how to care for him properly. It is a fair assumption, however, that many more parents will spend many more hours telling him how to feed and train and handle the dog than they will in teaching him how to care for and handle the gun they give him.

In giving a rifle to any boy, his parents assume an obligation to him and a responsibility to their community which go far beyond a few “do’s” and “don’ts.” For we must admit that a rifle can be dangerous if placed in the hands of an eager, untrained and careless boy. On the other hand, if parents will assume the moral obligation of seeing to it at the very beginning that the boy is properly taught the rules of safe gun handling, their gift will bring to him untold hours of wholesome recreation in the field or on the range.

It is when this obligation has not been met that tragedy sometimes follows the gift of a rifle. Unfortunately, the general reaction when this happens is to blame the rifle instead of placing the responsibility where it really belongs.

One of the most popular television and radio shows is Jack Webb’s “Dragnet.” As an annual December event this coast-to-coast program features the story of a nine-year-old boy who accidentally shoots his pal with a rifle which he was to receive as a Christmas present. It is a story of tragedy, dramatically and effectively presented.

The theme points up the fact that the tragedy need not have happened. While we agree with the theme, we emphatically reject “Dragnet’s” concluding slogan—“Don’t give your boy a rifle”—as the right solution.

In reaching his conclusion, the author fails to face the realities of life. Sooner or later almost every boy will be numbered among the fourteen million people who obtain a license to hunt each year. If that boy has been denied the privilege of owning a rifle and the opportunity of being taught how to use it properly, he is indeed a menace to himself and his fellow hunters when he takes to the field unacquainted with the weapon he carries.

Every boy today, upon attaining the age of eighteen years, must register with his Selective Service Board, liable for service in one of the Armed Forces.

Over a million of our youth entered the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps and the Coast

Guard during the past twelve months. Approximately the same number will enter the Services in the year ahead. Each one of them will have a rifle placed in his hands. How well he uses it in defense of his own life, as in Korea, or in the defense of our country, depends in large measure upon his having owned and learned how to use a rifle as a boy. In the trying times in which we live, the ownership of a rifle and the knowledge of how to use it are part of the necessities of our way of life.

The “Dragnet” program is recognized for the good it does in alerting citizens to the social and moral problems which exist in the United States. Its program on automobile safety is so widely acclaimed that the National Safety Council distributes prints of its TV version.

Both the boy and his rifle story and the automobile safety story are told in a similar fashion. Each is a tragedy caused by the ignorance and carelessness of the person involved. But there is this difference: “Dragnet” does not end the automobile story with a slogan, “Don’t give your boy an automobile.” Instead, it emphasizes the necessity for driver education, so that every boy and girl will handle a car intelligently and with safety to himself and to others.

“Dragnet” should reach a similar conclusion in its boy and rifle program. The rifle, like an automobile, is an inanimate object incapable within itself of harming anyone. Each can be safe, or dangerous, depending entirely upon how well, or how poorly trained, is the person who handles it.

The record of the National Rifle Association proves without question that shooting is the safest of sports. An accident on the range is almost unknown. In our thirty-year-old Junior program, involving almost two-and-a-half million youngsters, there are only two recorded accidents. Our more recent Hunter Safety program has proven again that the answer to accidents in the field lies in education instead of in prohibition.

Supervised training, safety education, gun ownership are cornerstones in the traditions of the National Rifle Association of America. They are cornerstones, too, of our American Heritage, playing a major part in the winning and the defense of our nation. These three together—training, education, ownership—will serve any boy faithfully and safely so long as he may live.

Instead of denying his boy the rifle he wants for Christmas, the wise father will give it to him. At the same time he will see to it that the boy is properly taught to respect it. Herein lies the answer to “A Boy and His Rifle.”

*U. S. Smith A. Edson*

# The Army's Most Controversial Weapon

By Major James W. Campbell

"Scrap the .45; it's useless," some observers say. But, it's the soldier's favorite personal weapon



The Army's Chief of Staff, Matthew B. Ridgway, wears the .45



A First Sergeant in a Ranger company in Korea checks his life insurance

THE colonel slipped the .45 caliber automatic pistol into its polished leather holster, buttoned the flap, and slapped it fondly.

"This," he said, "is the most useless weapon in the Army, but I'd just as soon walk out of here without my pants as without it on my hip."

Through a dozen major campaigns in two wars, the colonel had worn the powerful .45 handgun as a part of his uniform. Even when he slept, it was within easy reach of his right hand. Yet he, like nearly all others who have carried the .45, never has fired it in anger.

#### Why does the Army keep it?

The accuracy of the 'as issued' service pistol at even moderate ranges is not all it might be. Yet fervent love for the forty-two-year-old hand cannon is found throughout the ranks from private to general. To these warriors, artillery pieces, rifles, machine guns, and carbines are looked upon as tools of the

trade; the pistol is a personal weapon. Pistol, holster, magazines, cartridges, and belt tip the scales at five pounds or more—but even the burdened soldier always has room for the .45 which he knows is mechanically dependable and whose bullets hit hard enough to drop a mule.

#### Used very little

An examination of tens of thousands of pages of World War I histories and documents turned up only *thirty-two instances* in which the pistol was used effectively by soldiers of the American Expeditionary Force against the enemy.

The weapon saw even less use, percentage-wise, in World War II when the Army had nine million men under arms and more than a million pistols in the hands of American soldiers.

Yet—despite the large number of pistols in the hands of U. S. soldiers—World War II after-action reports, citations, and undocumented unit histories show only *forty-three instances*

in which a pistol was used against the enemy.

A total of 9,240 officers of the combat arms who served in World War II were asked whether they ever had fired a pistol at an observed enemy in combat, or whether they knew of such an encounter. Only three gave affirmative answers.

Of those three, one—an armored infantry company commander—recalled a bright moonlight night near Dessau, Germany. He spotted three German soldiers, armed with burp guns, approaching stealthily down a road. Quickly he passed the word to his men: "Don't open fire unless I do; I want to take them alive." But shortly after the enemy soldiers passed his position, someone squeezed a trigger. The Germans threw away their weapons, turned and sprinted down the road. As they passed his position—"so close I could have tripped them"—the company commander blazed away with his .45, emptying the clip of seven cartridges. The Germans continued their dash for safety until a GI with a Browning Automatic Rifle winged one of them at a range of more than one hundred yards. The other two got away.

What did the company commander think of his .45 after that?

"Wonderful weapon", he said. "Next time I won't miss."

Despite the proven uselessness of the pistol, a mild revolution is threatened throughout the Army every time a

recommendation is made that the weapon be discarded.

#### Captain De Rusha uses it

"Go ahead and discard it," said Captain Richard De Rusha of Denver, Colorado, a veteran of Korea, "and I'll buy my own."

De Rusha's love for the .45 is not just sentimental. When he and a sergeant were driving down a road near the Chosin Reservoir in Korea in November 1950, a Chinese burp-gunner in a ditch sixty feet ahead of them opened fire. The sergeant swerved off the road and he and De Rusha dived for low ground. Each had a .45 on his hip. Each also had an M1 rifle in the jeep, but neither had time to reach for it. As they lay on the frozen ground, sweating it out with .45s in hand, another Communist burp-gunner approached them from behind and, when just fifteen feet away, arose and fired a burst. The sergeant was killed instantly and a bullet smashed into De Rusha's left leg. De Rusha wheeled and fired his pistol. The heavy slug found its mark and the Chinese soldier was knocked down. Six more shots in rapid sequence guaranteed a perfect job. A few minutes later, a Marine Corps armored personnel carrier removed De Rusha to safety.

"If I'd had the M1 in my hand instead of the .45," he said, "I wouldn't be here to tell about it. I couldn't have brought the M1 around and fired it fast enough to keep the Chink from

letting me have another burst. You'll never catch me in a combat zone without a pistol."

De Rusha's case is a rare one, even in Korea where close-in fighting was almost a daily occurrence. The complete history of the Korean war has not been written, but the man working on it, Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Appleman, says he hasn't come across a single case of pistol play yet.

Interviews with combat veterans have revealed few cases of pistol engagements. Despite this, returning soldiers are almost one hundred percent in their endorsement of the .45.

Surrendering Chinese and North Koreans gave up hundreds of .45 caliber Colt revolvers and 9 mm. Japanese, German, and Polish automatic pistols. Although captured weapons are supposed to be turned in to Ordnance, few American or South Korean soldiers did so and efforts of commanders to enforce the order were futile in most cases. When the heat was on, the guns simply disappeared.

#### Soldiers want a pistol

The American soldier's yen for pistols, which dates back to the days when he played cowboy-and-indian in his backyard, has given postal officials prematurely gray hair. Shortly after the war began in Korea, GIs began to write to the folks at home, asking them to go to the nearest gunsmith and buy pistols—preferably .45s for which

Carbine was issued to replace short range pistol, but sergeant firing carbine in Korea still has a .45. Soldiers find .45 difficult to fire accurately, but easy to carry and there when they need it



plenty of ammunition would be available in the combat zone—and mail the weapons to them. If the stock of .45s was exhausted, they said, send other calibers and include a few boxes of ammunition, not realizing postal laws would be violated.

When the boys began to write home, the folks began to wonder why the Army wasn't issuing weapons to its combat men. The answer was quickly forthcoming: They were being issued weapons far more effective than the .45.

In an infantry division of approximately 17,500 men, 2,163 pistols are issued. They go to soldiers whose primary duties are leading others, to GIs who are mortar or artillery crew men, or to men whose primary duties keep them away from front line combat. Like the soldiers who carry them, Army planners regard the .45 as purely a last ditch weapon for personal defense, not as a primary offensive weapon.

Some officers—who are willing to risk the loss of many personal friends and to incur the wrath of millions of soldiers and ex-GIs who some day may have to return to active duty—continue to advocate that the .45 be sent the way of the saber and the horse. And they can make a strong case. Not only is the pistol rarely used, they point out, but the cost is high. Between 1940 and 1945, 1,800,000 of these arms were manufactured for the Armed Forces at a cost of approximately thirty-six dollars each. None are being bought by the services today, but if they were it is estimated the cost would be about seventy-six dollars each. Additional thousands of dollars are spent on ammunition for the weapon and precious training hours are devoted to qualifying soldiers to fire it with maximum effectiveness.

#### Scrap it—keep it

While acknowledging that under most unlikely circumstances, the weapon could be used effectively, critics say the gun has proved to be worthless as a battlefield weapon. These crusaders advocate the carbine or submachine gun instead, holding that these light weapons are accurate at much greater ranges and can pelt an enemy with a deadly hail of well-aimed bullets. They are inexpensive, too. A 'chopper' goes for forty-four dollars while the price tag on a carbine—developed, incidentally, to replace the pistol and not the rifle as many believe—is sixty-four dollars.

One active champion of the scrap-the-pistol movement, who wisely declined use of his name, said soldiers who carry a handgun might have to depend on it for survival and will either get killed or wind up in a prison camp.



U. S. Pistol, Caliber .45, M1911A1

Weight	2.44 pounds
Barrel length	5.03 inches
Overall length	8.59 inches
Magazine capacity	7 cartridges
Data on U. S. Government ammunition	
Bullet weight	230 grains
Muzzle velocity	810 feet per second
Muzzle energy	340 foot pounds

Designed by John M. Browning, "the Father of Modern Firearms," the Colt .45 Automatic Pistol became the official sidearm of the Army in 1911 after extensive tests in competition with other American and foreign pistols. No changes in the basic design of the pistol have been made since 1911

"Not so!" shouted a hair-trigger-tempered keep-the-pistol backer who fires so much ammunition in target practice that he has to load his own cartridges to keep from going broke. "The opposite is true!"

"The very fact that a man carries a pistol," he said, "is proof enough that he'd rather fight it out at close range than take a chance on winding up in an enemy concentration camp."

"Show me a soldier who packs a pistol and I'll show you a fighter," he declared.

#### You can take it with you

Pistol-packers offer a variety of reasons why their treasured weapon must remain in our arsenal! A rifle, carbine, or submachine gun often is a nuisance that must be laid aside by supply men who are giving heavy crates the heave-ho. A soldier staggering uphill under the weight of a mortar base plate doesn't take kindly to the idea of toting a heavy weapon. A communications man unwinding wire from a heavy spool is more likely to leave an M1 rifle in his truck than he is to sling it over his back. A recoilless-rifle man has more than enough to burden him without adding the weight of a submachine gun to the load. A tank driver, armed with a carbine or submachinegun, isn't likely to take the piece every time he mounts or dismounts from his vehicle.

At combat unit headquarters, such as a battalion command post, pistols on the hips or under the arm pits of officers and non-commissioned officers is a common sight. Take away these pistols, say the handgun advocates, and you'll find most of them going about their chores unharmed. It's just too much

trouble, they say, to pick up a less handy weapon every time they walk from one bunker or tent to another. In event of enemy infiltration, many who could give an excellent account of themselves in a fight would find themselves unarmed because their weapons would be far from reach.

The banish-the-pistol group comes fighting back. "What good is a weapon if you can't hit anything with it?" they ask. As the rate for men who qualify with conventional shoulder weapons increases, the number of those who qualify with the pistol decreases. Men who have no difficulty making expert or sharpshooter with the rifle find it almost impossible to become a marksman with a pistol.

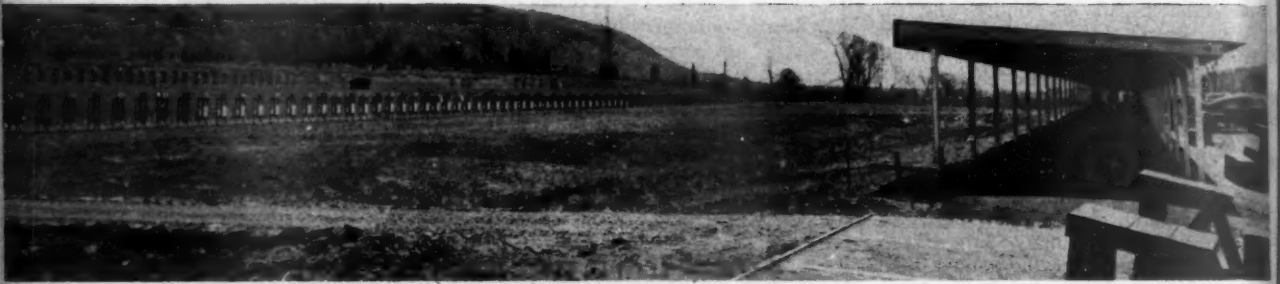
#### A powerful reason

But, strangely enough, even those who have a tough time making a qualifying score are found at the head of the pistol-lovers' parade. We'll get better if we practice more, they say, and their comrades-in-arms nod approvingly.

But look at the money that could be saved by discarding the pistol, say the critics.

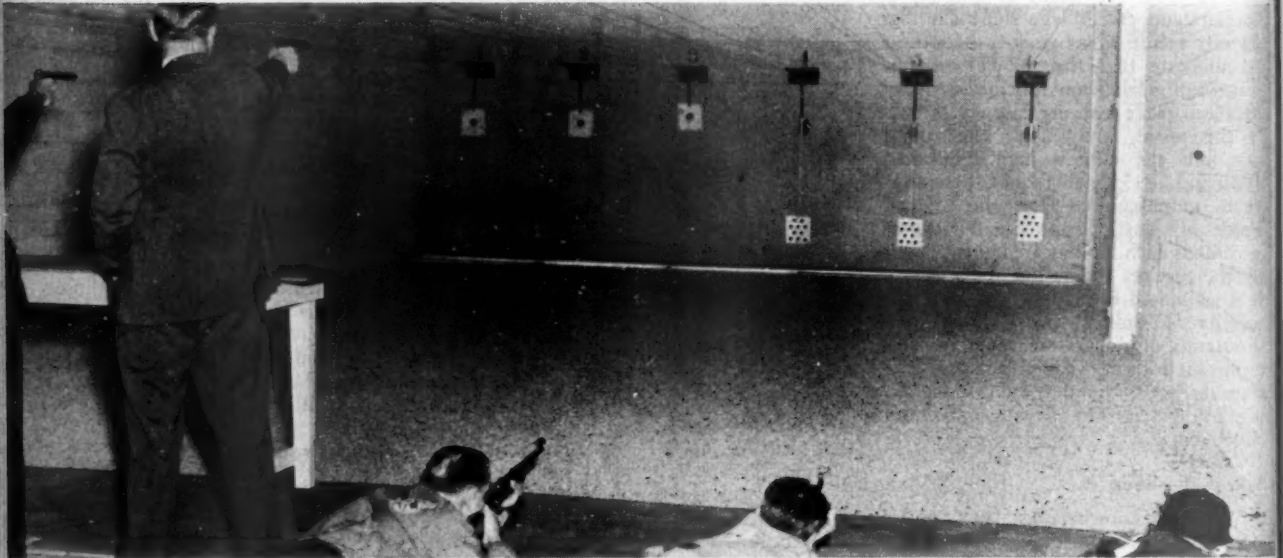
And comes the reply: the value of the pistol can't be measured in dollars and cents, nor by its combat effectiveness. Its real value is in terms of psychological effect on the GIs who wear it. Soldiers who carry the .45 have confidence in their ability to fight it out in a last ditch battle, and confidence is the difference between a stout defense or a retreat. If a soldier really thinks he's good, then he is good, and if a .45 keeps the GI in the right frame of mind, let him keep it. ♦♦♦

# WHERE DO YOU SHOOT?

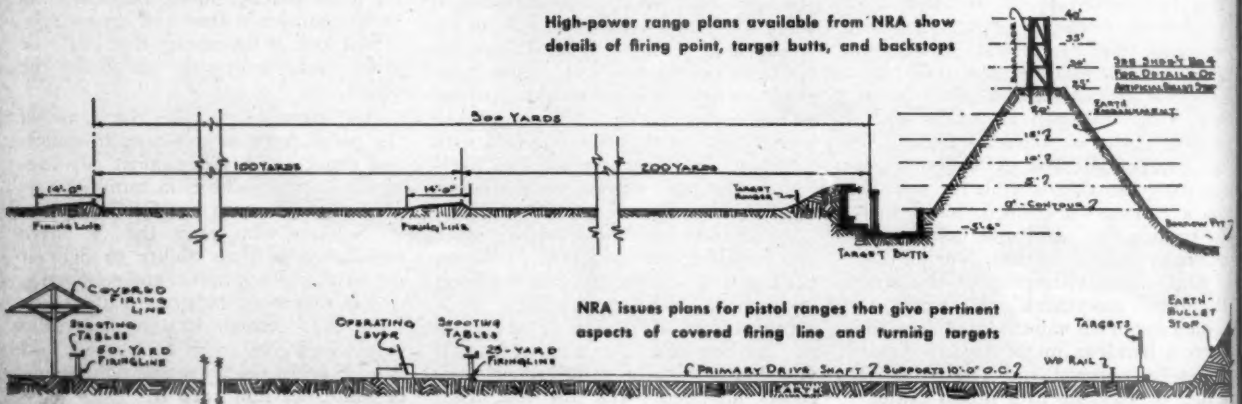


An excellent place to shoot. Built by the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation, the Blue Trail Range near Middlefield, Conn., is open to the public. The many firing points, large natural backstop, and the covered firing line are excellent features

This functional range has sound-deadening floor and ceiling, excellent ventilation, and carefully engineered lighting. Built for the Pistol and Rifle Club of Hopedale, Massachusetts, the range is heated and contains a clubroom



High-power range plans available from NRA show details of firing point, target butts, and backstops



Whatever a club's range needs, many ideas and suggestions are available to aid in fulfilling them.

A good place to shoot is the heart of any rifle and pistol shooting program. Some clubs are formed solely in hopes of building a place for its members to shoot.

Other clubs have a place to shoot but desire to enlarge or improve it.

A club may wish to include a bank of targets for use in international type pistol matches.

Whatever a club's range problem, the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Washington, D. C., can be of aid in solving it.

The NRA is also prepared to supply information on the way several clubs have planned successfully their ranges and raised money to build them.

A postcard from an NRA affiliated club giving name, address, and club, and naming the range plan you desire from the list which follows, will bring it to you.

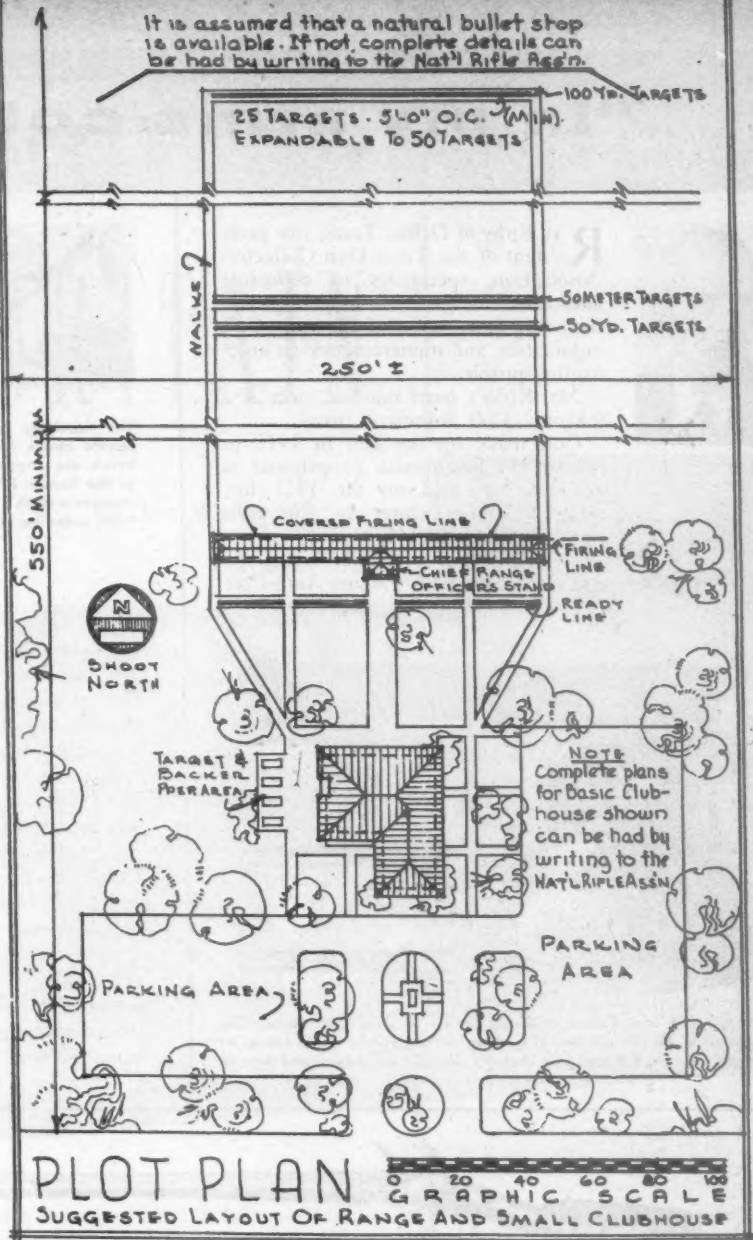
And be sure to let the NRA know when a new range is built. Daily, NRA members write asking for the location of a range in their community. If clubs will keep us posted on new ranges, those queries can be answered.

#### OUTDOOR RANGE PLANS

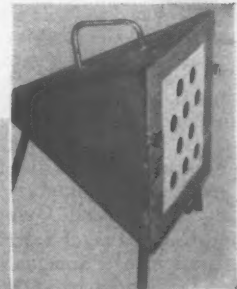
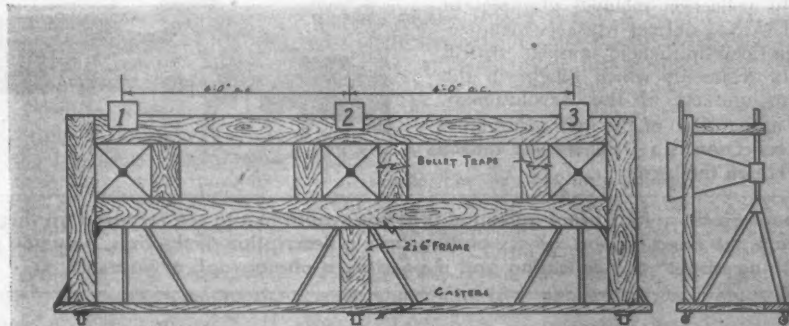
- High-Power Rifle Range (10-target unit)
- Smallbore Rifle Range (10-target unit)
- Pistol Range Designs (20-target unit)
- International Rapid Fire Targets
- Summer Camp Ranges
- Club House

#### INDOOR RANGE PLANS

- Indoor Pistol and Rifle Ranges
- Part-time Ranges



If your club doesn't have a range, you may be interested in this portable, part-time range which can be used indoors and rolled out of the way when not needed. Bullet trap (right) stops the lead



## "In my arms collection"



**R**AY Kirby of Dallas, Texas, vice president of the Texas Gun Collectors Association, specializes in collecting automatic handguns. He has 417 pieces, including forerunners of the early Colt automatics, and numerous foreign auto-loading pistols.

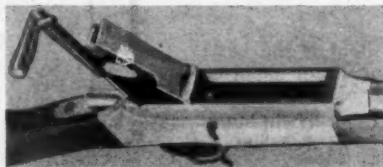
Mr. Kirby's most unusual piece is a 9.8 mm. Colt automatic pistol.

Colt made up the gun in 1912 to interest the Roumanian government in a pistol patterned on the 1911 but using a caliber closer to European standards than the .45.

Mr. Kirby has a chambering gauge and reamer stamped '9.8 mm Auto Colt P. Model 1910' and '10/1911'.



Mr. Kirby's 9.8 mm. Colt is strikingly similar to other Colt automatics, but the slide, barrel and barrel bushing are especially made for it. At right are (above) 9.8 mm. and (below) .38 ACP cartridges and barrels



The Comblain Brevete rifle has a large bolt handle above the magazine which pulls up to break the toggle joint. The initial movement of the handle lifts the locking block out of the receiver and the full stroke withdraws the bolt fully, indexing the magazine one compartment

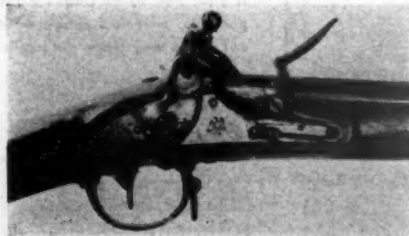
**R**OGER Marsh of Hudson, Ohio, prominent member of the Ohio Gun Collectors Association, says he started collecting some 25 years ago and displayed all the selectivity of the true packrat. Now, older, wiser, and poorer, he collects firearms information and firearms mechanisms. This lets him pick up unclassified rarities like the Comblain Brevete rifle pictured here, which Marsh says, "cannot be called unique since it is serial number 2."

A smallbore experimental rifle, probably military, about 8 mm., with 31-inch barrel, the 51-inch long Comblain has an indexing, compartmented rotary magazine with seven chambers.



Model 1835 pattern muskets, made at Harper's Ferry Armory, differ in a few minor dimensions from the production muskets made at Springfield Armory later

**R**ICHARD Kimball Sprague of Salem, Mass., a director of the Massachusetts Arms Collectors, collects flintlock long arms which figured in American history. His collection includes examples of most variants of the Model 1808 U. S. Contract Muskets manufactured in Massachusetts, all the flintlock Springfield muskets, British muskets marked with numbers of regiments which fought in the Revolution, French and German muskets of the Revolutionary period, and Committee of Safety arms. One of the interesting flintlock long arms in Mr. Sprague's collection is a U. S. musket model 1835 dated 1842 and marked 'N. H.' on the barrel.



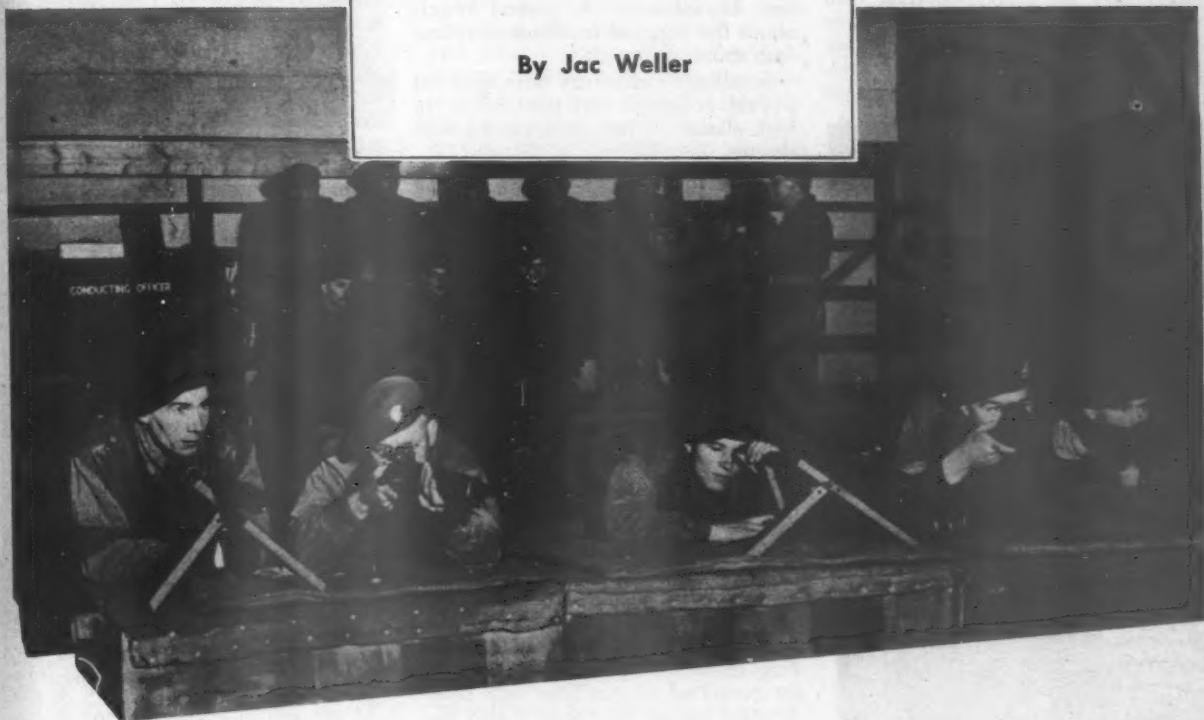
Is there an odd, rare, or unusual piece in your arms collection that you would like to see featured on this page? To be considered for publication, we need a good, glossy photograph, a description of the arm, how you started collecting, something about your collection and if possible a photograph of yourself.



## RIFLE TRAINING IN

# BRITAIN

By Jac Weller



**T**HE British School of Infantry is located at Hythe on the Channel coast. The ranges of the Small Arms Wing point out across the beaches where the Germans were expected in '40 and '41. Neither Hitler, nor Napoleon before him, with all the power of continental domination, was able to negotiate the twenty-one miles of water and conquer the island people that stood ready to defend their way of life.

As I drove down from London through the beautiful English countryside and then along the shore towards Hythe, there were the remains of pill-boxes and tank traps, grim reminders of twelve years ago. I thought a good deal of the skill that generations of Britons have had with their infantry weapons. We frequently forget that the first large-scale employment of the

rifle in war, and the evolution of tactics for its use in battle, was accomplished during Napoleonic times by the British Rifle Brigade.

I was extremely curious to see the modern developments in British marksmanship. The Small Arms Wing controls all musketry practices and training routines in the British Army. A good part of this training actually takes place at Hythe, although other depots also give both basic and advanced weapons training.

### Producing combat marksmen

At Hythe, one sees not only modern weapons but also, in the museum, the firearms carried for three centuries by British Tommies throughout the world. The primary object, however, of all activity at Hythe is to produce combat

marksmen. The cadres of instructional personnel all realize that an army's proficiency with crew-served weapons is not enough. They endeavor to make a firing soldier out of every recruit. All spend long hours of training with the Short Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) rifle. The British need individual aimed rifle fire even more than we do. A British infantry battalion does not have the diversity of materiel encountered in our army. For instance, they have nothing that corresponds to our .50 caliber machine guns or our big mortars.

### Two classes of trainees

In Great Britain today, almost all healthy male citizens of nineteen who do not volunteer for five years in the Regular Army spend two years in the National Service. There is a real dif-

ference in Great Britain between the youths who enlist in the Regular Army and the National Servicemen. For instance, the latter frequently do not wear a uniform when away from camp. The basic training of the Regulars and the National Servicemen is approximately the same. The small arms training is identical in theory at least.

There are some handicaps in small arms training in Britain which we don't have. First, our semi-automatic shoulder weapons have made unnecessary the long grinding hours of bolt manipulation necessary for proficiency with a non-automatic rifle. However, don't forget that on more occasions than some American units would like to recall, British veterans have shown an ability to handle their SMLE's in rapid-fire matches which astound Americans



An officer student from Thailand practices with Bren gun at the British School of Infantry

Mr. Wilson, Curator of the firearms museum at Hythe, dusts the interesting weapons display



too young to remember similar fire with the bolt-action Springfield.

Second, British civilians generally have a complete lack of almost all firearms knowledge. There is a traditional firearms know-how in the hearts, if not in the minds and hands, of young Americans that is lacking in England. One British non-commissioned officer, who has trained many hundreds of recruits, told me that not more than one

in a hundred has ever had a firearm in his hands before his enlistment. The police attitude in England toward firearms—they're considered intrinsically bad and criminal—does not aid in the initial psychological approach to the SMLE by the recruit.

#### Basic training ten weeks

The British basic training consists of approximately ten weeks. A recruit's first weapon is a .22 caliber rimfire rifle similar in bolt manipulation and weight and size to the service rifle. With it the recruit is taught bolt manipulation, dry firing, and live firing on a 25-yard range. In general, he gets about five hours of smallbore work and fires about 60 rounds.

Smallbore preliminary training is not popular at present with some officers in high places. It may be dispensed with shortly.

After smallbore firing, the recruit progresses to the .303 caliber rifle and again does a great deal of bolt manipulation and dry firing. Dry firing is, of course, necessary continuously throughout the active life of a soldier armed with a bolt-action rifle.

The recruit is taught to fire three 'practices' (stages) only in basic training. These are rather different from what we are accustomed to over here. For instance, 'practice one' is the grouping of five shots at a hundred yards with wrist or forearm rested while 'lying' (prone). The point scoring is determined entirely by group size and not the position of the group on the target. A four-inch group counts 25 points while one eight inches in diameter counts 20 points.

The recruit is not allowed to use a sling in any firing. Second-year men are permitted to wind the web carrying-strap around their arms if they like—something resembling our old 'hasty sling' arrangement—but it's not very satisfactory. At least some British officers would like to see a leather sling allowed for target work, although they do point out that even our soldiers seldom used these in battle.

#### Fire 80 rounds per man

'Practice two' is fired, 'lying,' at 200 yards on a 4-foot target with a 12-inch bull. Individual shots are scored as in regular target shooting, although the target itself is unusual. The top of the 4-point bull is black; the bottom half and the 3-ring are white with the 2-ring ochre and the 1-ring gray. The arrangement has a good deal to recommend it. The No. 4 SMLE rifle has what amounts to non-adjustable sights that must be positioned with the armorer's tools to suit the individual

rifleman, and permit limited range adjustments. The half-bull target arrangement allows a coincidence of point of aim and point of impact with their blade front sight. The rear peep sight of the No. 4 SMLE is close to the eye. This whole system won't give quite the target accuracy we get with our post front sight, six o'clock hold, and double adjustable rear sight, but it's a lot more fool-proof.

'Practice three' is fired, 'lying,' at 200 yards but at a 22-inch diameter snap target with a 12-inch bull. This target is exposed five times for five seconds each time, all within one and a half minutes with not less than six seconds between exposures. The recruit is allowed to be in aiming position during the firing. The 12-inch bull counts 4, with the remainder of the target counting 3. Practice on this target simulates actual combat firing reasonably well.

These three practices are very good so far as they go. However, the average expenditure of ammunition—about 80 rounds per man with the SMLE, including zeroing and practice of all types—seems inadequate for training individuals with no previous rifle experience.

Qualification scores in the 50's for five rounds at each of the three stages (65 is possible) are common. A group of recruits generally averages about 40.

#### Shoot automatic weapons

In addition to the SMLE, each recruit has a certain amount of instruction in firing machine carbines (sub-machine guns). The British Service uses the Sten gun in two similar models, both firing 9-mm. pistol ammunition. The standard infantry squad of seven men is equipped with five SMLE's, one Sten gun, and one Bren light machine gun. The Bren gun is first-rate with the standard .303 British ammunition and is used as we use the Browning automatic rifle. All recruits fire this weapon 312 rounds.

No instruction is given recruits or other enlisted personnel with handguns. The British service revolver, the .380 Webley or Enfield, is used mainly as an officer's sidearm.

#### Annual qualification course

After basic training, a soldier is assigned to his unit. Every infantry unit of the British Army fires annually a course considerably more complicated than the course fired by the recruit in basic training. Generally, annual firing will be done by first-year men in the first six weeks after joining their unit. It is divided into two courses. The instructional course consists of eight practices. The first three practices of the recruit course are repeated, except that



Major R. F. Christian, Assistant Chief Instructor at Hythe, with the new British .280 rifle and the Museum Curator with the arquebus matchlock gun used in the British Army in 1446

no resting of wrist or forearm may be used in 'practice one,' and the shooter is not allowed to remain in aim while the target is not visible in 'practice three.'

The fourth practice is fired 'lying', with a rest for wrist or forearm, slow fire at 300 yards, on the British standard 4-foot target. The fifth practice is rapid fire from a slit trench at 300 yards on the same target. The soldier is allowed to rest his wrist or forearm on the edge of the trench or on a suitable sandbag. The first four practices consist of five shots each; the fifth is ten rounds with the target exposed for one minute only.

The sixth practice is perhaps the most unusual of any target firing. Five shots are discharged while the firer, wearing a gas mask, is lying behind a simulated tree. This stage is fired only by first-year men. Its purpose is, of course, to acquaint each soldier with this type of work and give him confidence should he ever have to fight with his gas mask in place.

The seventh practice is five rounds slow fire at 500 yards 'lying' at a 6-foot target with a 24-inch bull. With the kind of wind conditions frequently prevailing in England, and with British rifle and ammunition, this is tough.

The last practice is unusual. Ten shots are fired at various ranges. All shooters begin at 600 yards. When the 6-foot targets appear, the shooters run to the 500 yard firing point and fire two shots ('lying') in 50 seconds before the targets disappear. After a 20-second interval, the targets reappear. The shooters run to the 400 yard station and fire two more shots ('lying') in

another 50 second period. After an interval of 20 seconds, the targets reappear and the shooters run to 300 yards and fire two more shots either sitting or kneeling. The same is repeated at 200 yards and finally at 100 yards. Firing at 100 yards, however, is done standing with bayonets fixed. One of the reasons the SMLE No. 4 has a heavier barrel than its predecessors is to minimize the change in point of impact produced by fixing the light bayonet.

The instructional course consists of 50 rounds, not counting zeroing and practice shots.

After instructional firing has been completed, the second part of the annual firing is done. This is the classification course. It's exactly the same as the instruction course save that the first, or grouping, practice and the sixth, or gas mask, practice are omitted. There are, therefore, forty rounds fired with a total point score of 160 possible.

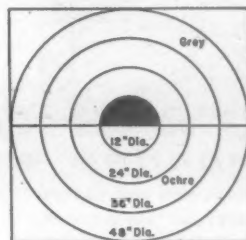
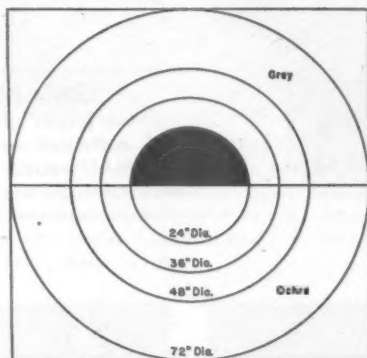
Including zeroing shots and the like, apparently each British soldier fires about 100 rounds each year with the SMLE. Including the recruit's firing in basic training, the first-year men fire

about 180 rounds. In part due to range difficulties, the entire firing is now sometimes done in basic training, though the ammunition expenditure is not usually increased since the soldier would not fire the annual course until his second year in the army.

#### Good shooting—more pay

There is one incentive to shooting proficiency in the British Army that is desirable. The pay of riflemen, as well as that of personnel handling various other weapons, depends upon his annual-course proficiency points, which are in turn determined in part by his classification scores with his weapons. For instance, a score of 105 or better out of a possible 160 with the SMLE will probably mean about ten per cent additional pay, provided the soldier is satisfactory in other ways.

The British infantrymen armed with SMLE's and Brens firing the .303 British rimmed cartridge may seem a bit behind the times. They are good soldiers, however. They had a toughness at Waterloo and in the Libyan desert that beat great armies at their own game.



Targets used in British rifle training: (left) 500-yard prone target, (center) 200-yard prone target, and (right) 200-yard snaphooting target

The ten-week basic weapons training period for British Army recruits is intensive. Much of the time is spent on the ranges under combat-tested instructors





Antique arms collectors displayed their collections at the first two-day meeting and exhibition of the New Jersey Arms Collectors Club. Held October 17-18 in Plainfield, N. J., the meeting was under the direction of Paul J. Westergard, club president, and member of the NRA Gun Collectors' Committee

## RANDOM SHOTS in the shooting world

### SEND IN YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

These pages are devoted to photographs of people and activities in the shooting world supplied by RIFLEMAN readers. Payment is made upon acceptance and all unused photographs will be returned.

This range of the Military School at Caracas, Venezuela, will be the scene of the International Shooting Union's World Championship Matches in December 1954. This firing line is on the porch of the range building. Elimination events for the NRA teams to participate in the ISU 1954 Matches will be held at NRA Regionals and National Matches next year.





These ladies fired in the annual Buccaneer Pistol Tournament sponsored by the Pistol and Rifle Club of Corpus Christi, Texas. The ladies (L to R) are: Mrs. G. Thompson, Mrs. J. Greer, Mrs. Libby Vaughn, Mrs. M. Gugenheim, and Mrs. M. Moore. Fireworks, a beauty contest, and two carnivals entertained the handgunners.



Here are the officers and directors of the new American Society of Arms Collectors. Officers (front, L to R) are: Paul C. Mitchell, Decatur, Ill., vice-president; Harry C. Knode, Dallas, Texas, president; Thomas E. Holt, Cincinnati, Ohio, secretary-treasurer. Directors (rear, L to R) are: Claude E. Fuller, Chattanooga, Tenn.; S. L. Hutcheson, Greenwich, Conn.; Dr. Thomas T. Hoopes, St. Louis, Mo.; Col. Arcadi Gluckman, USA (Ret'd), Carmel, Calif.; J. R. Somers, Dallas, Texas; and Sid Aberman, Pittsburgh, Penna.



"Here's how you do it," says Patrolman John R. Sheffield to Robert Folz during the four-week program conducted by the St. Petersburg, Fla., police to teach children firearms marksmanship and safety.



At Fort Dix, New Jersey, soldiers are learning to fire accurately at night on the first 'moonlight' military range in the United States. Fixed and moving targets are controlled and electronically scored from behind the firing line. Firing is done by dim blue lights which simulate moonlight. Target held by Captain Mosley (left) indicates riflemen can be trained to fire accurately when it is too dark for them to see their sights. At right, trainee fires tracer bullets at targets silhouetted against dimly lit backdrop.



# 1954 ANNUAL MEETING

Shoreham Hotel • Washington, D. C.

March 29 — April 4

## Annual Members' Banquet

The outstanding social event of each Annual NRA Meeting, at which NRA members will hear a nationally prominent speaker and enjoy music and entertainment—in all, a gala evening for members and their wives.

## Open House at NRA Headquarters

An opportunity to tour the offices at the NRA Headquarters Building with guides to explain the NRA's administrative organization which serves some 300,000 members and 8,000 affiliated clubs.

## NRA Board of Directors' Meeting

The yearly meeting of the sixty-man Board of Directors which has complete responsibility for the affairs of the NRA. As an active member you owe it to yourself to see the governing board in session.

## NRA Members' Meeting

NRA members attending the annual business meeting of the NRA hear reports of all the officers, and have the privilege of the floor during the conduct of business.

## Exhibits of Shooting Products

Over 10,000 square feet of gun show will be yours for the seeing, including exhibits of products advertised in *The American Rifleman*. You will have an opportunity to meet people who make and sell these products.

## National Gun Collectors' Meeting

At the first NRA nation-wide gun collectors' meeting, arms and accessories of all types will be assembled in a comprehensive exhibit representative of the best collections in the country.

An open meeting of the NRA Gun Collectors' Committee will be held to provide an opportunity for public discussion of gun collectors' problems. Talks will be presented by nationally recognized authorities in the collecting field.

## NRA Committee Meetings

Open hearings of all the NRA Standing Committees—Pistol and Revolver, Small-bore Rifle, High-power Rifle, Junior and College, and Gun Collectors—will give you an opportunity to participate in the planning of the NRA program for the coming year.

## Entertainment Features

The Annual NRA Meeting has been planned for Washington's famous "Cherry Blossom Time" so there will be events to interest shooters' families. Sightseeing tours will be available for all. Visits to historic shrines, get-togethers for the ladies, evening lectures are on the program for you and the family to thrill to. These and other events are a part of an adventure-packed week at the Annual NRA Meeting in Washington for 1954.

### Reservations

Hotel, motel, tourist home, and trailer park accommodations will be available for you and your family. Since the Annual NRA Meeting will be held during famous Cherry Blossom Time, Washington's busiest tourist season, don't delay in making your reservations.

For information  
or reservations write ►►►

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION**  
1600 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N. W. WASHINGTON 6, D. C.



Few of these arms were produced, but the modifications embodied in the altered S&W American were popular with users

# THE Schofield-SMITH & WESSON

By Herschel C. Logan

SHORTLY after the Smith & Wesson American revolvers were issued to troops early in 1871, a comparatively obscure army officer saw in the new revolvers possibilities for an even better military arm. In slightly over three months' time from the date of their acceptance by the Army, Maj. George W. Schofield had secured a patent (No. 116225, June 20, 1871), the objects of which, to quote his own words, were to "first, provide a lock-fast for such weapons, which shall hold the barrel securely in the position for firing; second, to provide a cylinder-stay for holding the cylinder in position when the weapon is opened for loading or ejecting discharged cartridge-cases; third, to provide a simple and effective ejector-spring stop."

## Modifications unnoticed

Two years slipped by before anything further was heard of the Schofield improvements. On March 30, 1873, Maj. Schofield wrote a lengthy letter to the Office of the Board on Breech-Loading Small Arms, National Armory, Springfield, Mass., in which he listed some ten major points of improvement of his weapon over the American model then in the service. These were summed up in his claim as follows: "the hollow ejector and its parts, the ejector lifter,

the lifter catch, the barrel latch and spring, and the cylinder stay and its parts, with the slight modification and improvement of other parts rendered practicable by the improvements here enumerated."

On May 8, 1873, he wrote a second letter to the Board, setting forth the advantages of his improvements. They were listed in the four following points:

- "1. Greater simplicity and strength in the revolving mechanism, in the ejector and the parts which operate it, in the cylinder stay and the device for holding it in place, and in the arrangement of the rear sight.
- "2. Superiority of the device for revolving the cylinder, in that it is perfectly certain in its operation, and in that it acts with equal force on all sides of the cylinder's center, exerting no force or strain in any direction except the right one, and leaving no uncovered opening between the chambers and the lock mechanism.
- "3. An ejector that does not act on the cartridges until the chambers are entirely uncovered, so that the pistol can be opened for loading or for examining the cartridges without operating the ejector, and so that when once operated, if all the shells are not thrown entirely out, a sec-

ond operation can be accomplished. "4. A more convenient and easy mode of stopping the ejector at any point in its rise without changing the position of either hand, and of opening the pistol without starting the ejector at all."

Major Schofield also pointed out: "A number of other advantages might be noted, but an examination of the weapon will make them sufficiently manifest."

## Ordnance tests

On May 21, 1873, Capt. John R. Edie of the Ordnance Department gave the first report on the Schofield revolver. The report was very favorable on the improvements Major Schofield enumerated. It did, however, conclude that the arm still had too many small parts which were liable to be broken or lost and was therefore objectionable for troops.

The year 1874 saw the first extensive testing of the new Schofield designs. Even then these early improvements were but crude alterations on the current Smith & Wesson revolvers, rather than any new model in production at the time. From a study of Ordnance Notes and Memoranda it is certain the altered arms were of .44 caliber, in all probability the .44 American,

though it is known that in one or more of the tests the .44 Russian cartridge was used.

The actual tests first started in February 1874, and in April the Board, comprised of Maj. J. G. Benton, Capt. John R. Edie and Lt. Henry Metcalf, made the following significant statement:

*“Resolved, That Maj. Schofield’s alteration of the Smith & Wesson revolver, in consequence of its simplicity, efficiency, strength, lightness, and the ease with which it can be taken apart, and of the probability that its peculiar construction will diminish the cost of its manufacture below that of the Smith & Wesson, it is well suited for use in the military service; and that the Board do recommend, that if the exigencies of the service do not permit the Chief of Ordnance to await the completion and trial of the new model pistol upon which Maj. Schofield is engaged, that a limited number of the pistols tried by the Board be put into the hands of the troops for trial.”*

In June 1874, the intensive testing of the Schofield-Smith & Wesson revolvers began. During the latter part of the month the new improvements underwent a series of rigorous tests. Many times the arms had to be withdrawn to make minor adjustments to better them for other strenuous tests. Upon reading the reports of these and other tests, one gains the impression that, while the military was definitely partial to the Colt revolvers, they did accord Maj. Schofield and representatives of Smith & Wesson courteous attention in their desire to produce a worthy and acceptable arm for the service.

### Revolvers ordered

After subjecting the improved revolver to the many and varied tests, including the rugged sand test, rust test, dust test and firing test, the Board, on June 30, 1874, concluded their report with:

*“Resolved, That, in the opinion of the Board, Maj. Schofield’s revolver is well suited for the military service and that the Board do recommend that a limited number of these pistols be placed in the hands of troops for comparative trial with the Colts and Smith & Wesson revolvers now in service; and that, as far as possible, the different pistols be tried side by side in the same commands.”*

On July 3, 1874, Brigadier General S. V. Benet, Chief of Ordnance, recommended, and Secretary of War Wm. W. Belknap gave approval to the purchase of 3000 Schofield-improved Smith & Wesson revolvers. Apparently this order for 3000 of the Schofield-Smith & Wesson revolvers was produced and delivered to troops sometime in 1875. At least the following paragraph from Ordnance Notes No. 54 would so indicate.

### “NATIONAL ARMORY

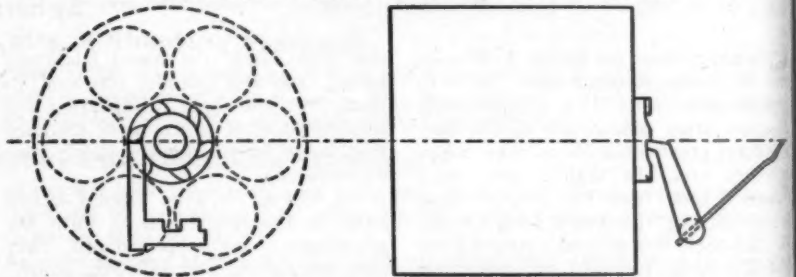
Springfield, Mass., February 23, 1876  
*“It is within the knowledge of the present Board that an issue of 3000 Schofield-Smith & Wesson revolvers has been made to the Army during the past year, and that, before taking up the present order for an additional 3000, Mr. Wesson has submitted a new model Schofield-Smith & Wesson revolver embodying important changes of mechanical detail.”*

The following letter, which appeared in the May 9, 1877 issue of the *Army and Navy Journal*, throws an interesting side light upon the Schofield story.

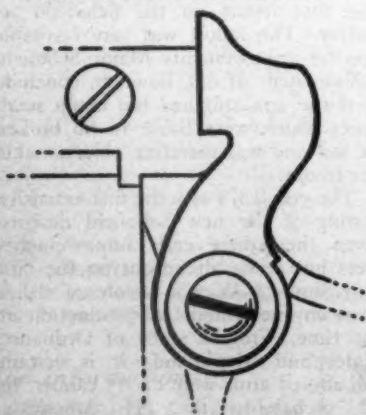
*“Sir: Will you allow me a little space in your paper for a word on the subject of Army revolvers?”*

*“Without the slightest wish to detract in any degree from the merits of the Smith & Wesson revolver, the general principles of which I consider superior to all others, yet would I like to have the exact truth appear and be known to all. There are no Smith & Wesson revolvers, proper, in the hands of United States troops. A few were purchased several years*

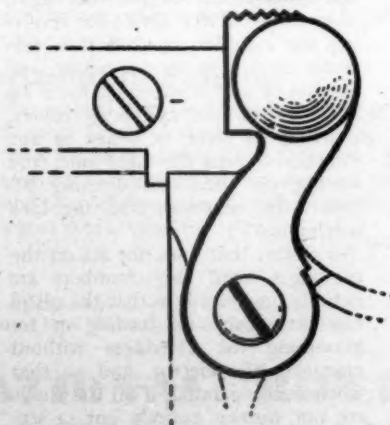
Detail of the modified S&W American cylinder revolving mechanism which Maj. George W. Schofield said made it certain in its operation



First barrel latch used on the initial order of 3,000 Schofield S&W arms



Second type barrel latch employed on subsequent orders of Schofield S&W



ago for trial, but were universally objected to because some of the parts were too delicate, and because the mechanism was too complicated. The ‘system’ was universally liked and the arm found great favor at first (in 1870-71), but frequent breakages, difficulties in taking apart and assembling, fear of accidental discharge and some minor faults soon caused its rejection.

*“Understand me distinctly as asserting that the ‘system’ was never at fault. The plan of this revolver is undoubtedly the best ever invented for mounted troops, but in the original the mechanical details were not perfect. This being true it was only necessary to correct, simplify, and strengthen the working parts to make it a great success. This was*





At top is the first Schofield issue with the early barrel latch. One of the guns used by the Wells, Fargo & Co., it is marked with letters shown at right below. Second issue of the Schofield S&W with regular 7 1/2-inch barrel and second type of latch is pictured beneath

done by an inventor previously unknown as such, who after over three years of study and labor presented the Army with the Schofield-Smith & Wesson revolver, which was promptly recognized by the Ordnance Department of our Army, the chief of which at once secured authority for the purchase of several thousands, although the same Department had repeatedly rejected the Smith & Wesson 'regular,' and the 'Russian Smith & Wesson.' A second order for three thousand of the Schofield model soon followed, and this model is the one, and the only one, now used in the U. S. Army. An idea of the radical differences between this model and the others is conveyed to the mind by the fact that no less than thirteen of the working parts are peculiarly its own; that all are secured to the inventor by letters patent, and that none of them are used in the other models. At the same time this model has fewer parts than either of the others. It should not, therefore, be said that Smith & Wesson revolvers are in use by the United States Government. Give Smith & Wesson credit for originating and bringing out the system or general plan in working shape, and for their skill and perfect workmanship in making these Schofield model revolvers for the United States Government, but at the same time let all give the full name to this arm when writing for the papers. A 'Return of Ordnance' made by any officer of the Army, responsible for these revolvers, would be 're-

turned for correction,' were this part of the official name omitted."

"Barrel Latch"

Though signed by "Barrel Latch," the letter is generally believed to have been written by Maj. Schofield himself.

#### Few produced

The number of Schofield-Smith & Wesson revolvers produced for civilian use is not known, but the quantity is believed to have been very small. For those produced for military use the quantity is best arrived at through the Annual Reports issued by the Chief of Ordnance. These show the following number received by the Springfield Armory: 1876, 3,000; 1877, 5,003; 1878, 2; 1879, 280—a grand total of 8,285. Since the fiscal year ran from July to July, it is understandable that the first 3,000 were delivered after July 1, 1875, and yet come in the report ending June 30, 1876. The above two reports would seem to indicate that this was true in the case of the first order placed in July 1874.

The new Schofield-Smith & Wesson was produced in .45 caliber. Powder charge of the specially-designed center-fire cartridge (.45 S&W) was 30 grains, bullet weight 250 grains. Any other calibers are not known at this writing. Indeed, if other calibers exist, they are believed to have been produced only upon special order and for civilian use.

In his book, *The Peacemaker and Its Rival*, John E. Parsons notes that 5,018 Schofield-Smith & Wessons were issued to Regular Army units between

1876 and 1893. In addition, the Ordnance Department issued 3,569 of the revolvers to the Militia. It is quite possible that some of these were arms which had seen service in the Army.

#### Used outside of Army

The length of time the Schofield revolvers were used by the Army is not known. Hartley & Graham, in their catalog of 1892, list the Schofield-Smith & Wesson with the first type barrel latch at \$13.50. Barrel length was given as either 5 1/2 or 7 inches. These were undoubtedly Army surplus arms. Sometime thereafter the Wells, Fargo & Company and the American Express Company purchased a sizeable quantity of these revolvers with which to arm their agents. Such arms are easily distinguished by the special stamping on the sides. In addition, they were stamped with either the serial number, or another number in large numerals.

Carried alike by military men, law-enforcement officers, outlaws, and civilians, the Schofield-Smith & Wesson revolver was one of the great arms of its time. It seems too bad that the untimely death of its distinguished inventor brought the curtain down on further development of this splendid arm. Maj. Schofield died by his own hand with one of the revolvers upon which he had labored so long and earnestly to perfect and improve.

This brief obituary, in the December 19, 1882 issue of the *New York Herald*, closed the chapter on an otherwise brilliant and inventive career:

"Lieutenant Colonel George W. Schofield, Sixth Cavalry, and brother of Major General Schofield, commanding the Division of the Pacific,

### W. F. & CO. EX.

This stamping is on Schofield S&Ws used by Wells, Fargo & Company, Express

committed suicide at Fort Apache, A. T., at daybreak on Sunday morning in his room. His servant was in the room building a fire, and Lieutenant Colonel Schofield was at the washstand combing his hair. He asked his servant to leave the room, and he had barely closed the door when the shot was fired. He had been crazed for eight or ten days over some invention of his, and it is supposed that in a moment of temporary insanity he shot himself." ♦ ♦ ♦

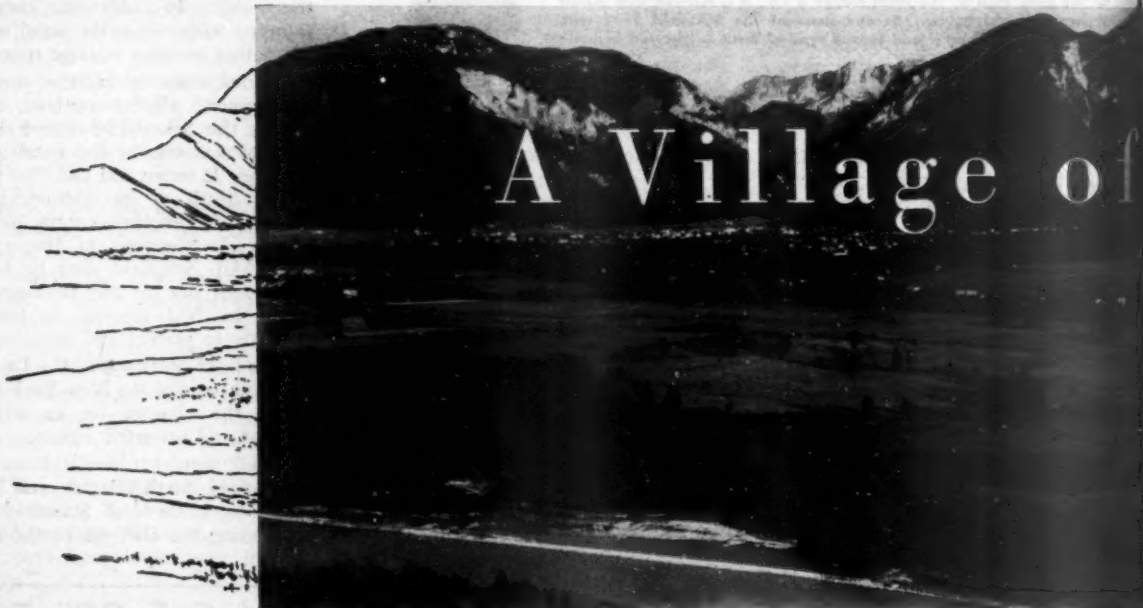
My sincere thanks to Lt. Col. R. C. Kuhn, John E. Parsons, Carl Kountz, C. E. Brock, A. W. Rowe, Frank Wheeler, and others who so kindly assisted in the preparation of this article. —H. C. L.



The small shop of Josef Fanzoi is typical of the twenty-seven separate gunmaker's shops that are found in the village of Ferlach



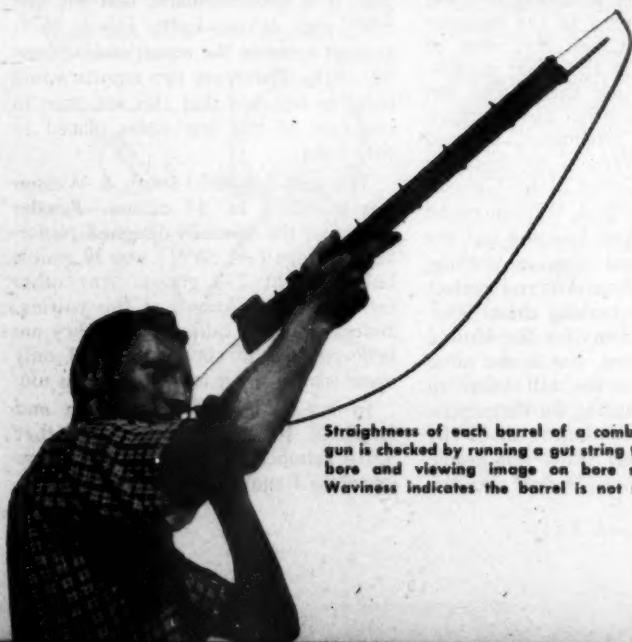
A class in the Ferlach Gunsmith School receives instruction in the art of action making from the School Director Josef Dusels



# A Village of



Students with ability to develop fine techniques necessary for top gun work have no difficulty obtaining positions



Straightness of each barrel of a combination gun is checked by running a gut string through bore and viewing image on bore surface. Waviness indicates the barrel is not straight



The staff, composed of top gun makers, teaches all branches of the field. Here an instructor checks a trigger mechanism made by one of the sixty some students in the school



While students must take certain basic courses, they may elect to specialize in stockmaking, metal working, or engraving. Tuition for the four year course is low

# G U N S M I T H S

The Austrian village of Ferlach is the home of a school for gunsmiths. There, in the foothills of the Carinthian Alps, master gunmakers have built fine firearms for almost four centuries



Engraving classes work from mounted birds and animals to obtain exactness and extreme detail typical of the engraving done in the Ferlach trade



Student concentrates as he engraves a sideplate. Buttplate at right is typical of fine Ferlach engraving



## "Here's how I did it"

A market place for the exchange of 'better ways of doing it.' Payment made for all accepted items. A 'better way' with description and good photograph or drawing is the only requirement. Send us your 'better way'—now.

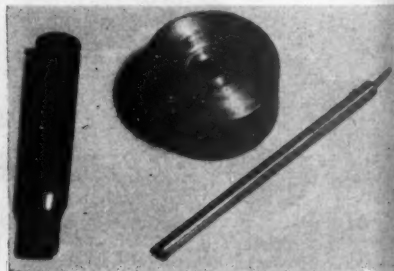


When a pistol magazine follower is sluggish in feeding the cartridges up—and grease, dirt, or deep dents are not the cause—try this. Hold the magazine, as shown, down on a firm surface. Then, with a hard rubber or wooden mallet, tap on the front section of the magazine in the area where the follower gets stuck. The amount of force required depends upon how badly the walls have been squeezed.—Neil Doherty, Sharon, Mass.



For years I calked my shoes with spent primers from a Pacific loading tool. Then I stumbled onto this idea.

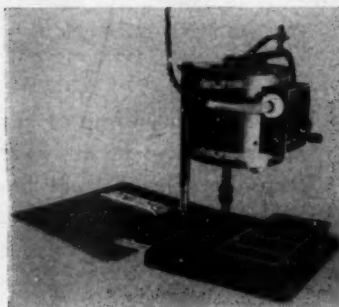
Take a 3 1/2" x 6" clasp envelope, and cut a notch and two holes. Trim the flap and roll up the bottom so it gives clearance to the toggle joint. Insert the primer arm bolt through the holes and tool frame. Put in the cotter pin and it's ready to go.—Fred M. Seguin, Superior, Wis.



This is my emergency rig for decapping fired cases. It has paid its way many times when my primer punch has broken. The metal block and punch are lathe products, but a hardwood block and carefully hand-filed punch would also serve quite well.—Parry C. Yob, Philipsburg, Mont.



I wanted a solid grip for my Colt SA revolver but did not have the equipment to machine it from a solid block. Instead I made it of three pieces (birds-eye maple with a walnut filler piece) and Weldwood glue. During the gluing, light oil was used on the contacting metal areas to minimize sticking.—E. F. Brandt, St. Augustine, Fla.



I made an auxiliary table for my melting pot and now bullets don't come from the multiple cavity mold with a crater in their base.

A steel plate with one hole and one slot is the table. The upright rods on the furnace stand are threaded and two nuts run up on each. As the photo shows, I can swing the table in or out of position as my needs dictate.—H. B. Walker, San Leandro, Calif.

# RIFLES

## FOR THE BIG BEAR

By Jay Williams

THE .375 Magnum rifle is the answer to an Alaskan hunter's prayer. Shooting the 270-grain bullet at a muzzle velocity equal to that of the 180-grain bullet in the .30-'06, and with an energy at 200 yards equal to the muzzle energy of the '06 load, the .375 is considered the ideal rifle for the big brown and grizzly bears. The .375 Magnum is especially popular today in brushy southeastern Alaska. Good insurance to have when closing in on a wounded brown bear, the .375 is also surprisingly accurate, an asset that is often overlooked.

There are still guides and hunters in Alaska who use less modern rifles, but as these men pass on the older rifles fall into disuse. One meets Alaskans who in years gone by were staunch advocates of the .405s, .45-70s and .45-90s, and even the 50-110, but today they are users of the .375. Of course, there are some individuals who stoutly defend the use of older, less efficient cartridges than many made today, but it has always been so. In nearly fifty years in Alaska, as prospector, trapper, forester, hunting guide, and public official, I have seen many rifles come into vogue, enjoy a popularity, and be superseded by other arms.

### Fifty years ago

Generally, in 1900 the one all-important item on every north-bound cheechako's equipment list was a powerful rifle and an ample supply of ammunition. A weird and motley collection of rifles they were, too—the sort of small arms one would find in an army of South American revolutionists. The artillery of these hopefuls ranged from single shots of various makes and calibers, to repeaters, including the then increasingly popular .30-30.

Occasionally a new rifle enjoyed a peak of popularity for a few years. About 1904 the .33 Winchester in the

reliable '86 Model came out. John M. Browning, the noted firearms inventor, is reported to have said that the '86 action, was, in his opinion, the best action in many respects that he ever invented. Let's say that she was a dandy gas pipe. My own '86 accounted for a lot of big game in its day. It was about as foolproof as any rifle I have ever seen. One of its best points was reliable functioning in any position, upside down or any way, either of rifle or shooter. This can be appreciated best by the bear hunter who has just been given the slam-bang by an irate brownie.

Another rifle which enjoyed some popularity was the Savage, in both .303 and .30-30 caliber. The relative merits of these two calibers were the subject of lively argument. Probably there was no great difference between them as hunting loads—either would have to hit a big bear about right in a vital place to give instantaneous results.

The Savage rifle, and the Savage carbine especially, were liked by both horse wranglers and packers. It was just what they wanted for a saddle rifle. With no projections, it lay flat against the leg and slipped in and out of the scabbard slick as grease.

The short Savage carbine was what the doctor ordered for the prospector and the trapper. These men carried their immediate necessities on packboards on their backs. The carbine could be fastened to the outside of the pack, leaving the hands free. Light and short, it would not interfere with

a person's movement in the brush. Carrying the rifle on the pack in brown-bear country definitely cannot be recommended. However, there are large areas in the Territory where it did not matter greatly and it was done.

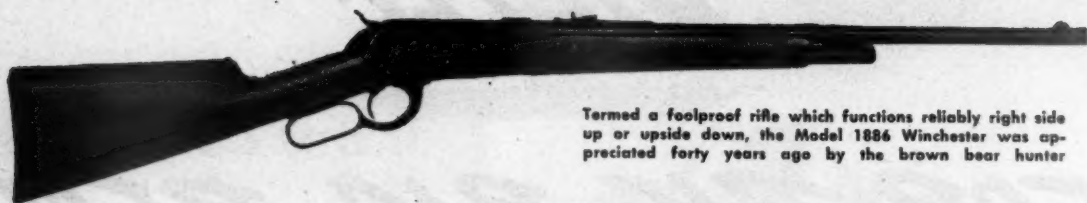
Being a favorite with horsemen and prospectors, the Savage rifle attained its greatest popularity in the interior of Alaska. The .303 Savage caliber, especially, was considered by many as having ample power for anything that would be encountered in those parts.

### .30-40 used by meat-hunters

Another rifle frequently seen in the early days was the Model '95 Winchester in the popular .30-40 caliber. There was a rifle amply powerful for all the Alaskan cloven-hoofed game, from the blacktail deer of southeastern Panhandle to the giant moose of the Kenai Peninsula. In addition, one carrying the .30-40 Model '95 rifle was far from defenseless when called upon to argue with a cantankerous grizzly.

The Model '95 rifle and the Krag-Jorgensen rifle, in .30-40 caliber, were most frequently encountered in the hands of the meat hunters and the lone wolves away from the beaten paths. These men were, generally, more advanced in rifle lore than the average. Their rifles were important to their livelihood, and intelligent scrutiny and investigation was given to the purchase of a long arm. These men wanted the latest rifle and cartridge and the best in effective range and killing power.

**A man who has spent 50 years in Alaska discusses advantages and shortcomings of various rifles he has used and seen used**



Termed a foolproof rifle which functions reliably right side up or upside down, the Model 1886 Winchester was appreciated forty years ago by the brown bear hunter



Many experienced Alaskan hunters think highly of the Springfield. With 220-grain bullet loads, it is a very popular rifle for use on any big game found in Alaska



Today many Alaskan hunters and guides use the largest caliber commercial bolt action rifle made in America, the Model 70 Winchester rifle in .375 H&H Magnum caliber

The residents of Southeast Alaska 'Panhandle', especially in the northern part, who live in the range of the brown bear, favor the heavier calibers for their hunting. In that area the smart woodsman carried a rifle handling a load powerful enough to win an argument with anything that might be encountered. Perhaps the hunter was after only the harmless little Sitkan deer to replenish his meat supply. There was no guarantee he would not run smack up against a half-ton of Brownie 'out on the prod', and for such a chance meeting the heavy load was a must. The wise hunter in the Panhandle figured it was better to be over-gunned than under-gunned.

#### **.405 for brown bear**

The Winchester Model '95 in .405 caliber was well liked in the big bear country. There is no denying the old smasher invariably gave a good account of itself, proving to be a good rifle and load, a reliable killer. A man I guided for brown bear in Alaska, who had had much experience in hunting the big game of Africa, said he bought four '95 .405 rifles at a time, keeping the two he liked best. Wes Myers, a good old-time guide of Southeast Alaska, swore by the .405 for many years, later switching to the .375 Magnum. Bruce Johnston, another competent old-time guide, always carried his 50-110 Winchester when guiding in brown bear country. Bruce is the man who killed the "Old Groaner" in the Unuk River drainage, a mean griz-

zly and a record one. This bear's body was carrying several bullets from former encounters with hunters when he was killed. It is small wonder he was continually groaning from pain and discomfort and possessed a mean disposition.

None of the more modern rifles entirely supplanted the reliable .45-70's and .45-90's with some bear hunters. This was especially true of a few native bear hunters. From a long acquaintance with many of the old natives, and from discussing bear hunting with them at various times, I gained the impression that they seldom ventured into dense cover after these animals, especially if the animal had been wounded. And only a small percentage of the natives hunted brown bear at all. This is easily understandable, probably an inherited timidity and reluctance holding over from the days long before the white man when the native weapons were not sufficient to cope with these large, powerful, dangerous, and hard-to-kill animals.

Probably the foremost native bear hunter in Southeast Alaska was Gambier Bay Jim. He was so-called by the whites because he claimed Gambier Bay, on the east side of Admiralty Island, with all its arms, as his ancestral hunting ground. He regarded Gambier Bay as his personal hunting and trapping grounds and zealously guarded it against all trespassers.

Jim knew bears and the country they were to be found in, and he had other assets for the highly specialized job of

hunting them. Among these assets were skill and judgment in selecting concealment, combined with stealth and caution in obtaining the short-range, killing shot.

At the time I knew Jim, he was using a single-shot .45-90. In the opinion of many, this was not the best rifle obtainable. However, Jim spoke highly of the weapon. He said that he liked it for its knockdown power. Many others, including myself, can testify to its effectiveness on this point. For short-range shots, and especially shots in the brush, speed of fire, and positive action, this rifle and cartridge is still hard to beat. Jim's skill in getting the short-range shot, and his ability to place his bullet in a vital spot, all worked well and he never had serious trouble.

#### **Springfield becomes popular**

Along about the 1920's, another growing class of riflemen came into the picture. They were hunters who wanted to collect on those shots 'way out yonder! Woodsmen and trappers sometimes spotted a valuable furbearer, such as a cross fox or a wolf, at a range which made accuracy a prime factor. Each successful shot meant financial gain. This called for telescope sights and its concomitant, the best ammunition, often well-tested handloads. The possibility that these hunters might, sooner or later, have to shoot it out with a sour brown bear was another factor to be considered. About this time the military Springfield .30-'06 converted into a sporter began to be

seen. There were some very good loads for the .30-'06 cartridge. Anyone equipped with a good .30-'06 rifle and the Western Cartridge Co.'s 220-grain boat-tail bullet with the tip of lead exposed, had only to do his part and the result would be satisfactory. That 220-grain load was my favorite and I wonder why it was dropped and if there is anything better now?

Another .30-'06 load which gave good service for the use to which it was put, was the 180-grain, open-point, boat-tail bullet. For many years my field work was largely in brown and grizzly bear country. My little Springfield sporter, fashioned by old Ludwig Wündhammer, was picked up in the morning as regularly as my hat. It was my standard practice, when alone, to carry the Springfield with a load in the chamber and the magazine full, always with safety on, of course. The load in the chamber and the top one in the magazine would be 180's, and the remainder 220's. The shock from the first shot, especially the one in the chest cavity, generally (used advisedly) put the animal down with time for the follow up. In my experience there never has been a time I had absolute assurance that the first shot at a brownie would knock him down, much less keep him down. It is always well to assume that more shots will be necessary.

#### Following wounded bear risky

There have been instances when an animal has gone down like a pole-axed steer. It is always wise to follow up with another shot quickly, especially if the animal is close to cover. Of course, it is much better, and less nerve-racking, to finish the job in the open. Trailing these tough wounded animals in the 'jungle' of Southeast Alaska, where undergrowth is almost of tropical density, is a touchy task at best. If the animal does escape into the brush, it is sound practice to wait at least an hour after the bear has entered the brush before following it up, to allow it to die or stiffen from loss of blood.

After a sufficient wait to allow a bear to die before closing in to investigate, a hunter should avoid any brush that might interfere with quick and accurate handling of the rifle. I well recall one instance when a non-resident hunter, who insisted on completing the job alone, allowed a fine trophy to escape. The first shot the hunter made evidently merely clipped the bear on the top of the shoulders, upsetting it. The hunter, despite the hurried admonition of the guide to continue shooting, seemed transfixed and stood watching the bear struggle to its feet. When the hunter finally became convinced that it was necessary to shoot again, he failed to pull his

bolt clear back and snapped on the un-ejected, empty case. The guide, standing at his side, saw instantly what was wrong and yelled to pull the bolt clear back. But the animal was legging it for the timber, and the second shot was a clean miss. It was too late in the evening to make a thorough investigation and an attempt was made in the morning although a heavy rain that night had washed out the little amount of sign. Fortunately, all indications were that the animal was not fatally wounded, and it seems likely that it eventually recovered. This is the kind of experience that makes a bear a menace to future hunters. Quite wisely, the Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska has since passed a regulation making it obligatory for the guide to assist in killing a wounded bear that tries to get into the brush.

#### Favors .30-'06, .35 Whelen, .375

Some field men, such as surveyors and timber cruisers, whose attention is primarily occupied with their work, hire an extra man as a guard when working in the brown bear country. It isn't a bad idea, especially when the party is made up of people inexperienced in the region. Some of these guards choose and recommend short-barreled shotguns for protection against



bears. Just what basis they have for recommending such weapons is not clear. I have never known personally of a brown bear being killed with a shotgun and I feel quite certain that not many have been. Maybe the shotgun loaded with rifled slugs is alright; I wouldn't know, having had no experience with them. It has no appeal for me compared with a rifle such as the .30-'06, with the right bullets. .35 Whelen, and—last but not least—the .375 Magnum. The .35 Whelen I used had the same outside dimensions, both in barrel and stock, as the Springfield known as the DCM sporter. A better rifle for the money was never built. My .35 Whelen was barreled by Neidner and the stock had been worked over by Alvin Linden of Bryant, Wisconsin. It was a splendid rifle in every way. Loaded with the Barnes 270-grain bullet, it gave extreme accuracy and was a superb killer on all game, including the large brown bears.

#### Brown bear timid but dangerous

I do not wish to create the impression that the great majority of Alaska brown bears are intent on attacking every human they encounter. Quite the contrary is true. Their natural reaction, *under normal circumstances*, is to avoid man. This qualification 'under normal circumstances' is pretty

be disturbed at close range during the mating season. A bear that has been wounded by rifle fire or in fighting with its kind may crawl into the dense brush to nurse its wounds or its grudge against humans and the hated man-smell. These are the situations which may cause trouble, and there is no substitute for a powerful rifle and a little confidence and experience in its use.

#### Trend to powerful rifles

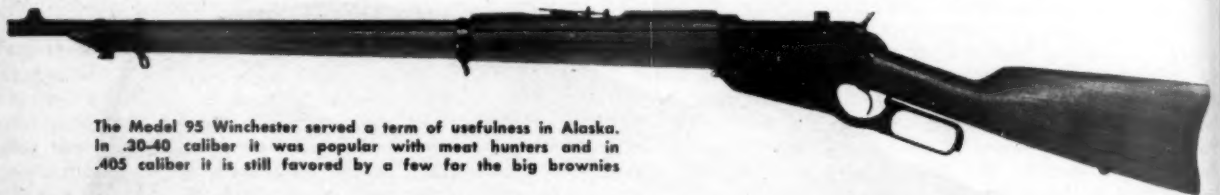
There are some points on which experienced Alaska bear hunters and guides seem to be in general agreement. It is practically unanimous that the huge plantigrades have tremendous vitality and are very tenacious of life. Second, there is a definite trend towards the most powerful rifles and loads of American manufacture. The hunter gets a good shot. If the bear gets up quickly and lunges for the brush, a common occurrence, the guide gets a hurried shot at the bulk of the animal. Seldom is there time to place a shot carefully under these conditions. If the guide shoots solidly into the meat, generally he has a dead bear or one so badly wounded as to be quite easily handled with reasonable caution. In my opinion there would not be a great deal of difference in the result of a shot with a .375 or a .45-70 under these conditions. Each rifle and load would be good for *short-range work*.

thoroughly familiar with the rifle and load you intend to use. I have seen some hunters from the eastern United States who evidently had walked into a sporting goods store and told the man behind the counter they wanted a bear gun as they were going to Alaska to hunt bears. No matter what was handed them, they considered the matter settled and all that apparently remained was for someone to 'show them the bear'. Getting the gun is just a beginning, and a small one at that, in any type of hunting.

The prospective hunter should make plain that he wants a rifle for the large brown and grizzly bears of the north country. If possible, the purchaser should determine beforehand the rifle and load that he can handle most efficiently. Then he needs plenty of target practice on his home range. The rifle should be zeroed in carefully for the shorter ranges. Many hunters have no business shooting at the big brown at more than 100 or 125 yards range, for two reasons: first, long shots are more liable to wound rather than kill; further, a load loses much of its punch over a long range.

#### Target practice valuable

Ample target practice builds up a confidence and familiarity with one's weapon that is just plain good insurance for any hunter interested in obtaining a desirable trophy or getting out of a



The Model 95 Winchester served a term of usefulness in Alaska. In .30-40 caliber it was popular with meat hunters and in .405 caliber it is still favored by a few for the big brownies

much the whole meat of the matter. These animals are creatures of the brush. They are, in my opinion, more or less furtive and uneasy when out on open tide flats and meadows. It is rare to find a trophy bear out in the daytime. They are at home in dense cover.

But the rub is that many of these interesting animals are encountered under abnormal circumstances. During the salmon spawning season one may easily come down a stream with bear beds thick under the spruce trees nearby. The water running over the riffles and rocks, the rain beating on the 'devil's club' leaves, may cause the man to walk onto a bear before either is aware of the other's presence. Or the timber cruiser may walk between a cub and the mother at close range; the cub starts bawling and the mother comes running. A pair of bears may

#### Advice for bear hunters

Long years afield in the bear country of Alaska have tended to crystallize for me some fundamental ideas. However, I realize keenly that no person knows it all. New experiences are constantly coming up in hunting this unpredictable animal, and different men react differently to the same experience, but I do feel my ideas are in pretty close agreement with those of the experienced, veteran guides in Alaska.

The bear hunter—any other hunter, in fact—should select the most powerful rifle and load that he can handle *efficiently*. He is better off a bit over-gunned than under-gunned, up to a certain limit. That limit is reached when the dread of recoil and flinching becomes detrimental to accuracy.

A last observation for anyone who goes into brown bear country — be

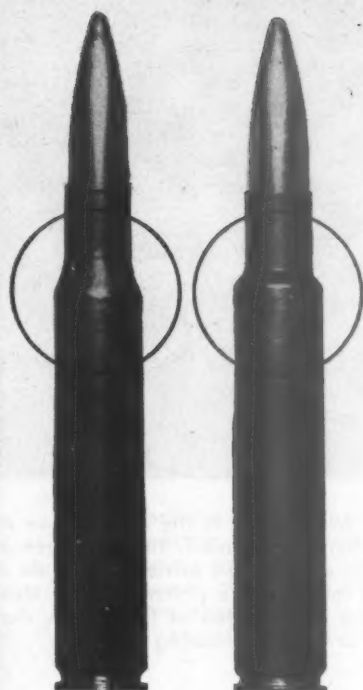
possible jam. It is the wise hunter who does practice some close range, fast work. The practice will be at a stationary target, which is less difficult to handle than a thousand-pound animal lunging at a fast clip but it should help.

In a way, it strikes one as rather futile to spend time arguing about the relative efficiency of the various loads, calibers and rifles. The big factor, and the one that counts most, is the man handling the rifle. He's the one who levels off much argument about this load and that rifle. ♦ ♦ ♦

#### NEXT MONTH

A superb article by Daniel K. Stern tells, in words and pictures, how to load, maintain, and shoot cap-and-ball revolvers.





# How Improved is it?

By William F. Wieman

H. P. White Laboratory

**Two cartridges, one a commercial, the other an 'improved' version, were objectively compared for performance. The results may surprise you**

Standard .30-06 cartridge (left) and Ackley Improved .30-06. The sharp shoulder of Ackley case allows greater powder capacity

**W**ILL an 'improved' cartridge outperform its supposedly more sedate commercial brother? Many shooters say it will. And they will rise to defend the merits of their favorite 'improved' cartridge.

An 'improved' cartridge is a type of 'wildcat', a standard commercial cartridge case which has been modified, usually by increasing its powder capacity, in an attempt to obtain higher velocities. The designer hopes, too, that the new case is a more efficient combustion chamber, and attaches the 'improved' tag to indicate that he has designed a better performer than the commercial cartridge. To qualify as an 'improved' cartridge, the caliber of the original cartridge is unchanged and the case modifications can be accomplished by fire-forming; i. e., firing a standard commercial case in an 'improved' chamber.

## A new approach

However, the claims of superiority for these wildcat cartridges rest largely upon the personal observations and conclusions of individual experimenters. No one, to our knowledge, ever has used standard industrial equipment and test procedures to determine the actual difference in performance between a given commercial cartridge and an 'improved' version of the same case.

As this is the only way to evaluate accurately the relative merits of a standard cartridge and an 'improved' version, we decided to conduct such a test under controlled conditions.

In planning the experiment, we decided to test for velocity and pressure only. We would not test for accuracy, for this is a product of the gun as well as the cartridge. Also, we decided to concentrate on one cartridge. Of course, testing one 'improved' cartridge can not prove or disprove the value of all such wildcats, but it can furnish enough basic data to aid in the evaluation and testing of other 'improved' cartridges.

We chose the Ackley Improved .30-06 as a test cartridge. This cartridge

was developed shortly after World War II by P. O. Ackley, the well-known gunsmith and wildcat cartridge designer of Salt Lake City, Utah. When it first appeared, the Improved '06 attracted the attention of many hand-loaders. Enthusiasts claim it is capable of higher velocities than the standard .30-06; it is in reasonably wide use, and it is fairly representative of the 'improved' variety of wildcat.

The first step in evaluating the Ackley Improved .30-06 was to prepare the ammunition for tests. We fired several hundred rounds of a selected lot of 1942 Frankford Arsenal .30-06 ammunition in a Springfield Arsenal Mann test barrel and action. (Continued on page 79)

TABLE 1

Load	Bullet	Seating Depth	Primer	Powder Wgt.	Powder
I	110 gr. Speer S. P.	.250"	Federal #210	54.5 grs.	IMR 3031
Overload	150 gr. Ackley S. P.				
II	180 gr. Sierra S. P.	.400"	Federal #210	48.5 grs.	IMR 3031
III	220 gr. Express S. P.	.500"	Federal #210	44.5 grs.	HiVel #2
IV	220 gr. Express S. P.	.500"	Federal #210	55.0 grs.	IMR 4350
V	220 gr. Express S. P.	.500"	Federal #210	57.0 grs.	IMR 4350

All cases used were Frankford Arsenal 1942. Fired once, full length resized.

TABLE 2

Load	.30-06 CASES			ACKLEY IMPROVED CASES		
	Average for 10 rounds Velocity, f/s	Average for 10 rounds Pressure, p.s.i.	Extreme Variation in velocity	Average for 10 rounds Velocity, f/s	Average for 10 rounds Pressure, p.s.i.	Extreme Variation in velocity
I	3416	51,810	58	3398	50,430	35
Overload	3134	59,570	60	3156	62,550	30
II	2675	51,230	49	2666	50,430	21
III	2334	44,980	21	2331	44,160	16
IV	2501	44,950	18	2440	46,710	36
V	—	—	—	2524	49,680	64



After you have picked out a shotgun that fits your build and your pocketbook, get acquainted with it. Get used to handling it so you don't feel ill at ease every time you pick it up. Put it up to your shoulder and swing it across a target path



A shotgun is not 'aimed' in the same sense as is a rifle. Rather, it is pointed. However, one of the first things a new gun owner should do is to pattern his shotgun on a pattern board. Most beginners have a poor idea of how much shot scatters at normal shooting distances

## After you've bought the shotgun . . . ?

**M**ANY newcomers to the gun game—for some unexplainable reason—feel that shooting is one of those things that comes naturally. The idea of receiving instruction never occurs to them. Even to many who recognize a need for some sort of primary instruction, the thought of 'going to school' or soliciting help from some experienced shooter seems to be a little more than their ego can stand.

Most of us find it difficult to ask someone to show us how to do something that we feel should be part of our God-given knowledge. Actually, when man and mechanism are brought together, instruction is mandatory to produce a desirable end-result.

These photographs show Val Cleaver, supervisor of the Abercrombie and Fitch Shooting Grounds in Bethpage, New York, and a new shooter who wisely decided that he should know something about using the gun he plans to hunt with.

Almost every community has some facilities where a man can receive at least elementary training in gun handling. Local skeet and trap fields are an ideal place for the beginning shooter to spend a few hours in developing an understanding of his shotgun and in getting acquainted with the mechanics of loading and handling it.

Where skeet and trap facilities are not available, the potential shotgunner can well invest a few dollars in a hand trap, clay birds and shells and prevail upon an experienced shooter to spend an hour getting him properly started.

Anyone new to the shotgun game who is hesitant about seeking instructions for fear that he will be thought oddly of, need only remember the cold fact that it is better to look like a darn fool in front of one guy for an hour than to be a dangerous darn fool in front of a whole hunting party for a full day.

Photographs by Sid Latham



This pattern board is a wooden frame with composition backing onto which is tacked wrapping paper with an aiming mark in the center. Patterning not only shows the shooter where his gun is shooting but what sort of pellet distribution he is getting

New drivers and new shotgun shooters have a lot in common. They are inclined to spend a lot of time thinking about what move they should make next. A little training and a lot of practice soon makes the process of getting the gun into action 'second nature'



"You've got to lead a moving target," says the instructor. "You must remember, a shot charge moves rather slowly and its velocity diminishes rapidly. In effect, you point the gun in front of the target, and when you fire you are sending the shot charge out to intercept the target"

You can't beat scattergun shooting for the good feeling it gives you. It is a year-round sport. If you get started now, you'll be ready for skeet and trap next spring, and by fall you will have earned the right to match your skill against the fast-movers and high-flyers



# Shooting

## AT OHIO UNIVERSITY



By Alan William

OHIO University, at Akron, Ohio, is only average in size as universities go, but it ranks big in smallbore shooting interest. However, this happy situation didn't come about by wishing.

There was no rifle club or team until it was formed by a group of rifle enthusiasts in the late thirties. But the university would not recognize the group as official and all they could do was to function as a club. It operated for several years, holding matches with other college clubs and with city rifle teams. When World War II came along, the club disbanded.

When the rifle club reorganized in 1947, it had one distinct advantage that it did not have before. That was the help of the University Military Department, which began supplying ammunition and coaches for the team. Within a couple of months, the Military Department organized ROTC rifle teams. The all-male rifle club immediately set up new rules, a constitution, and elected officers. They then improved their range facilities and added to their equipment.

In the meantime some Ohio University girls became interested in rifle shooting. Here was a sport in which they could compete equally with men. Determined co-eds began spreading the word throughout the campus and soon had a roster of thirty-five girls. The men's group eagerly helped the girls organize a club, and aided them in securing recognition as the Ohio University Women's Rifle Club.

The men's team was still trying desperately to obtain recognition of rifle shooting as an official sport. Although the men's and girls' teams were receiving help from the Military Department and receiving money from dues, individuals still had to finance trips to other schools with their own money. Obviously this limited the number of their shoulder-to-shoulder matches.

Several factors had a great deal to do with the team's obtaining recognition from the school. One was the influence of Lt. Colonel Graham of the Military Department. Colonel Graham appointed a coach, and Gordon Bush, owner of the local paper, *The Athens Messenger*, helped the team financially and publicity-wise. Finally, in May 1952, the university gave its blessing to the team and shooting became an official university sport.

As the team is now recognized by the school, they receive \$250 annually to use as they deem necessary. \$200 of this money is used to pay trip expenses. The remainder is used to purchase miscellaneous equipment such as scopes and shooting jackets.

The men's team belongs to two leagues and participates in shoulder-to-shoulder matches. The leagues are the Southern Ohio Intercollegiate Rifle League and the Central Ohio League. They fire on a round-robin basis, with each school taking a turn as host. The matches are fired according to National Rifle Association regulations, but using only the prone, kneeling, and sitting positions.

Besides these shoulder-to-shoulder matches, the men's team also fires postal matches with collegiate rifle teams throughout the country.

All-American intercollegiate rifle team member William White receives congratulations from Lt. Col. Graham as Sergeant Ledford looks on.



The girls' team fires about a dozen postal matches a year. At the end of the season, the girls' team usually has an unofficial match with the school ROTC teams. When the women fired against the Army and Air Force ROTC teams last year, they beat the Air Force team by one point and the Army team by one hundred points. One can imagine how they teased the men about that showing.

Ohio University's range is located about five blocks from the heart of the campus, under the stands of the football stadium. It is 50 by 80 feet and has eight firing points illuminated by fluorescent lighting. The back stop is one-quarter-inch steel plate painted white.

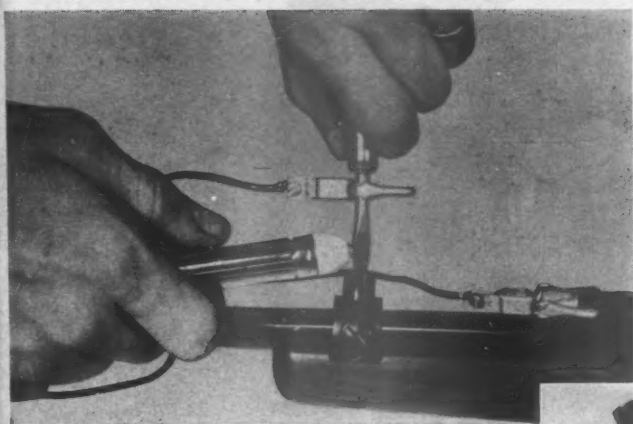
The school owns twenty-five rifles equipped with good sights. The club itself owns about a dozen shooting jackets and four scopes.

The students at Ohio University have put forth a great deal of effort, time, and money to produce the teams and facilities which they have today. What they have done can be accomplished by others. But it isn't done by wishing. It requires aggressive doing on the part of individuals who are determined that they will enjoy their favorite sport as do the participants of the more publicized competitive activities. ♦ ♦ ♦

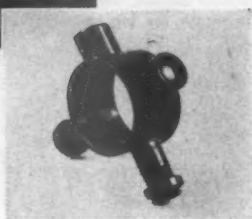
Shirley Sidle gives a few pointers to another shooter. Ohio U. co-eds have been active in shooting since prewar formation of rifle teams.



THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN



Here an altered pen-type flashlight, screwdriver, and alligator clamps are used to set up circuit for initial setting of click adjustment screws. Bedding device (at right) is a metallic band larger than barrel diameter with four screws at right angles



## ELECTRIC BEDDING

### Do's and Don'ts

By George J. Stidworthy

If electric bedding devices were not readily available, I would not sell any of the three I now use on my small-bore match rifles. Use of the bedding device has benefited my smallbore match shooting, but I don't like to think of the six or eight months of frustration which followed the return of my misbehaving rifle with the first of these 'gadgets' on it.

The electric bedding device is a metallic band larger than the diameter of a .22 match rifle barrel. Installed in the forearm of the stock so that it encircles the barrel, the bedding device has four screws through the band. Two are in opposition to one another and at right angles to the other two.

An open electrical circuit which includes a screwdriver, a light bulb, and a flashlight battery is used to obtain the initial setting of the click adjustment screws. After the bedder has been properly installed the first operation consists of backing off all four adjustment screws so that they are well clear of the barrel. The electrical circuit is then attached through one of the top adjustment screws which is then turned down until the light just goes on to show initial contact of the screw with the barrel. Once the contact has been obtained the screw is backed off approximately two clicks after which the same procedure is carried out with the other

top adjustment screw. It is now possible to set the two top adjustment screws to a definite tension by backing each of them out by a certain number of clicks. The bottom screws are then turned up to the point where the barrel is forced upward and against the top adjustment screws. It is suggested that the bottom screws be moved up in rotation which will provide a more even tension than if they were drawn up separately to full contact. Note that there is no particular difficulty in this adjustment operation and that the electrical circuit is used only to obtain the initial contact of the top adjustment screws with the barrel. Once this contact have been obtained, the electrical circuit can be set aside.

#### Bedding device useful

With a bedding device properly installed on his rifle, a shooter need not be a skilled mechanic to bed the rifle to the most accurate adjustment. The click-regulated adjusting screws enable the shooter to determine the most desirable pressure between barrel and stock. Thus, the rifle can be bedded to obtain the best results from different lots or types of ammunition. And, of course, a rifle can be rebedded rapidly to compensate for minor warping of the stock.

#### Errors impair usefulness

With high hopes for a new era and better groups because of my bedding device, I went to the range, but after three hundred rounds I felt that I had paid to have a good stock ruined. From the start I was lost. I couldn't get decent results with the bedding device. Nevertheless, I continued shooting. As one error after another was eliminated, I found that the troubles with the bedding device were of my own making. Subsequent experience has shown me that unsatisfactory results are the result of inattention to a number of factors that are controllable.

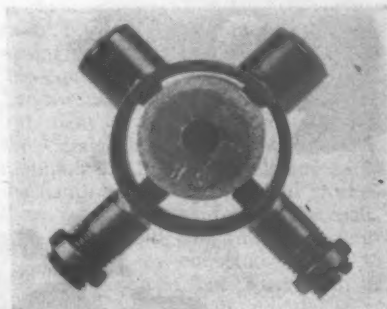
I am convinced now that a good match rifle with a bedding device can be 'set' to shoot sufficiently well to place in any smallbore match, if the shooter does his part. I am convinced, also, that a good shooter who cannot achieve satisfactory results with his bedding device, using good cartridges in a mechanically sound gun, is making one or more of the mistakes I made.

#### Do's and don'ts

Here are the do's and don'ts for the use of bedding devices that I have discovered:

1. Install the bedding device accurately. If you are not proficient with tools, have the device installed by a competent gunsmith. It is far cheaper to have a bedding device installed properly than to try to correct a job that is sloppily done.
2. Check, before you start to experiment with settings, that the barrel does not contact the stock forward of the receiver and that the barrel is not touching the ring of the device. Examine the barrel and forearm closely, because after removal of wood along the entire length of the barrel groove, the stock forearm may 'walk' considerably and press against the barrel at some point.
3. Determine that the top screws of the bedding device project inside of the

(Continued on page 78)

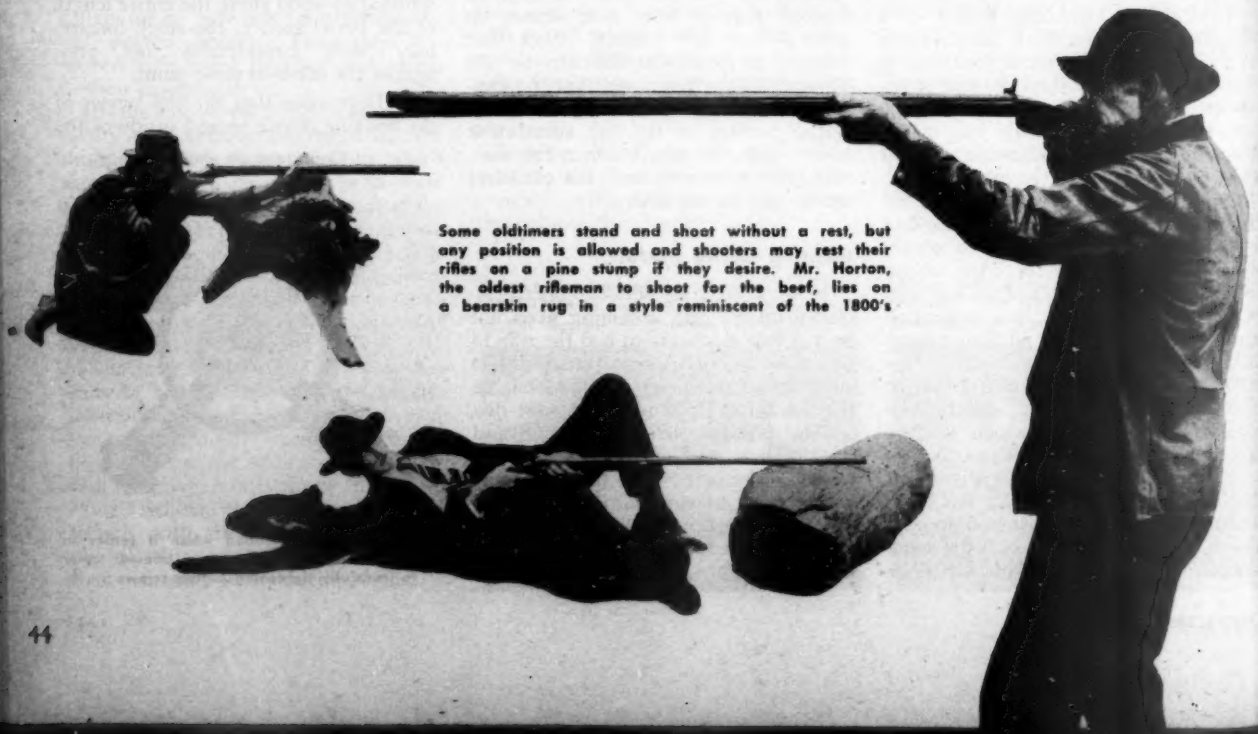


Barrel is properly bedded when it settles in the V-rest formed by upper screws, after carefully tightening bottom screws

"Now when I was a boy . . ." E. L. Horton, 78, discusses the fine points of rifle marksmanship with Frank Miller, Jr., 11. Both fired for the beef prizes

Measuring powder charge in bear's tooth, this shooter loads an heirloom rifle for the match

Daniel Boone Arrington, 73, and Verland Gibson, 86, still come to watch the big shoot



Some oldtimers stand and shoot without a rest, but any position is allowed and shooters may rest their rifles on a pine stump if they desire. Mr. Horton, the oldest rifleman to shoot for the beef, lies on a bearskin rug in a style reminiscent of the 1800's

C  
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Mrs. Yates, an 'outlander' from Florida, fires one of the old muzzleloaders. Coached by Jerry Mull (right), who has fired in beef shoots for fifty years, all of her shots went inside the diamond. See the smile!

# CATALOOCHEE BEEF SHOOT



You may not be able to find Cataloochee on the map, but that's where the Great Smoky Mountain people go to shoot for beef

By Carlos Vinson

ON a mile high mountain top near Cataloochee, in western North Carolina, mountaineers and 'outlanders' gather every year with their long-barreled muzzleloading rifles for an old-fashioned beef shoot.

Cataloochee is a hamlet among the big mountains just inside the eastern edge of the Great Smoky National Park. The annual beef shoot is a big event in this little community. This year many shooters and spectators from all parts of the country came to the Cataloochee shoot.

The contest is open to anyone who can produce an old muzzleloading rifle. The prizes are quarters of beef from a fat, white-faced steer that is butchered promptly at the end of the match.

The mountain families around Cataloochee take great pride in upholding the family 'hawg' rifle shooting reputation, and 'outlanders' who compete must be able to shoot if they are to tote home any steaks.

Entrants may fire from any position and old-timers take as long as three or four minutes to aim. Powder charges for the old muzzleloaders usually are measured in a hollow bear's tooth, and bullets are molded in old-time bullet molds.

The contestants make their own targets for this match. A cross is cut on a piece of charred wood and a white paper target, shaped as the shooter desires, is used as an aiming point. Targets are scored according to the closeness of three shots to the center of the

cross. Calipers prevent any disputes.

Most of the rifles used are family heirlooms that have been handed down from generation to generation. Surprisingly, many are still in fine shooting condition. Among the rifles are Lancasters and other famous old makes, but many of the rifles were made in the Cataloochee area. In some cases, mountaineers bought barrels and firing mechanisms from outside and stocked them with native hardwood. Recently, some of the old long rifles have been carried away by collectors willing to pay fancy prices, but there will be enough of the accurate muzzleloaders in the Great Smoky Mountains around Cataloochee to fire in the beef shoot for many years to come. ♦ ♦ ♦

## THE SPOTTING SCOPE.....

Major General Merritt A. Edson, USMC (Ret'd), NRA Executive Director, is now a Vice President of the National Smallbore Rifle Association of Great Britain. He is the second non-British subject to be honored with the high office. The other is Erik Carlsson of Sweden. Louis F. Lucas, NRA Deputy Executive Director, and Frank Wyman, Secretary, are honorary life-members of the same British organization.

Make your plans now to attend the 1954 Annual Members' Meeting in Washington, D. C. at the end of March. A resume of the activities planned for that meeting is given on page 28 of this issue.

Earl Warren, NRA Life Member, formerly of California, sent in his change of address early in order not to miss an issue of "The Rifleman". As you know, he recently moved to Washington, D. C., to assume his duties as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Tennessee Gun Collectors Association recently became the 15th gun collectors group to affiliate with the NRA.

Arthur Cook, ex-national and Olympic smallbore champion, of Washington, D. C., fired a 400x400 in a four-position, any-sight match on November 3. The mark can't be recognized as a new record, however, as the Maryland tournament in which the score was fired was not registered. The 397 posted at Elmhurst, N. Y. on April 21, 1950 by Arthur Jackson is still the national record.

Ben Drayer, NRA Life Member of Columbus, Ohio, was named Chairman of the League of Ohio Sportsmen's Gun Safety program. The league is sponsoring the NRA Hunter Safety Course in that state.

More Federal "duck stamps" were sold during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1953 than any previous year since the first issue in the series went on sale in 1934. In all, 2,296,628 stamps of the 1952-53 issue were sold. It represented an increase of 128,861 over the 1951-52 figure.

23,197 smallbore shooters, 10,595 pistol shooters, and 1,887 high-power rifle shooters were on NRA classification rolls as of September this year. As of the same date, 178,885 junior riflemen had been issued qualifications.

Major General Emerson L. Cummings, USA, close associate of Major General Julian S. Hatcher, USA (Ret'd.) during World War II, is the new Chief of Ordnance of the Army. Cummings succeeded Major General E. L. Ford on November 1.

H. V. Kaltenborn, famous news commentator, is the latest nationally known personality to join the ranks of the NRA.

A new simplified version of the "Uniform Hunter Casualty Report Form" is now being mailed to all cooperating states and Canadian provinces by the NRA. As you know these report forms are the basis for assembling uniform nation-wide statistics on causes of hunting accidents.

A Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all of you from all of us here at National Rifle Association headquarters.

*Paul Cardinal*



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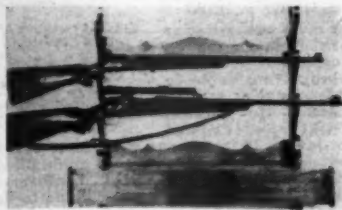
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**NRA News and Events**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE NAMED**

The following Committee has been appointed by NRA President J. Alvin Badaeux to select those individuals to be nominated for election to the Board of Directors in the coming year, as provided under Article III, Section 3, of the By-Laws of the National Rifle Association of America.

- |                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Carl E. Kastner,<br>Chairman       | Maplewood, N. J.    |
| John M. Schooley,<br>Vice-Chairman | Denver, Colo.       |
| Carl R. Hellstrom                  | Springfield, Mass.  |
| Walter McIlhenny                   | Avery Island, La.   |
| Lee Petrov                         | Cincinnati, Ohio    |
| D. F. C. Reeves                    | Nashville, Tenn.    |
| Cladys Rising                      | Los Angeles, Calif. |
| Judge Bartlett Rummel              | Tacoma, Wash.       |
| Waldo E. Seagly                    | Topeka, Indiana     |
| Howard Smith                       | Des Moines, Iowa    |
| Glenn Taylor                       | Phoenix, Arizona    |

The names of the persons nominated by the Committee for election to the Board of Directors will be published in the January 1954 issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN.

In accordance with amendments to the By-Laws adopted at the last Annual Meeting, an election ballot will be mailed early in January to each NRA Life and Endowment Member, Patron and Benefactor. The right to vote for the election of Directors is one of the benefits of Life Membership. For the first time in NRA history the new mail ballot procedures will permit every member entitled to do so to vote in the 1954 election. Each one of the NRA's 22,578 Life Members should avail themselves of the opportunity.

**19 SHOOTERS JOIN 400 CLUB**

This year nineteen smallbore riflemen joined a fraternity of match shooters known as the 400 Club. These men earned admission to the exclusive group by firing possible scores of 400 points with metallic sights over the Dewar Course (20 shots at 50 yards, 20 shots at 100 yards) in individual match competition at regional tour-

naments or at the National Matches.

Fifteen riflemen became members of the 400 Club at Camp Perry, Ohio by firing possible scores in the National Matches. They are:

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Boydston, Robert E. | Tomsen, Walter        |
| Cook, Arthur        | Wallace, Chas. A. Jr. |
| Crowley, John J.    | Weinberger, Sidney S. |
| Ferguson, Hugh      | Whipple, Charles C.   |
| Norton, Lloyd L.    | Whitacre, John R.     |
| Perkins, Robert E.  | Wilkins, Lawrence A.  |
| Pfeiderer, C. K.    | Fardon, J. E.         |
| Steele, Ray H.      |                       |

Four smallbore riflemen fired perfect scores over the Dewar Course in regional



smallbore tournaments. The names of these men and the regionals in which they fired are:

- |                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pech, Richard J.  | Rocky Mountain Smallbore Regional |
|                   | Steamboat Springs, Colorado       |
| Saunders, E. M.   | Southeastern Smallbore Regional   |
|                   | Knoxville, Tennessee              |
| Skeadas, J. A.    | Southeastern Smallbore Regional   |
|                   | Knoxville, Tennessee              |
| Stidworthy, G. J. | Northeastern Smallbore Regional   |
|                   | Middlefield, Conn.                |

The 400 Club was formed at the 1933 National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, by ten shooters. Any shooter who scored a possible at subsequent National Matches in a Dewar Course became a member and was duly recognized with a brassard.

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION STAFF**

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DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • LOUIS F. LUCAS

THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN: WALTER J. HOWE, Director. JOHN A. HARPER JR. BRENT V. S. PEABODY. H. C. STITH. M. D. WAITE.

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TECHNICAL ADVISOR: JULIAN S. HATCHER, MAJ. GEN., USA (RET'D)

NRA REPRESENTATIVE: E. F. (TOD) SLOAN, BOX 108, SAN CARLOS, CALIF.

In 1951 the requirements for membership in the 400 Club were changed so that anyone firing a possible over a metallic sight Dewar Course event in a regional match or the National Matches was admitted.

There are presently 155 members of the 400 Club.

### NRA RULES COMMITTEE MEETS

The NRA Competition Rules Committee met in Washington, D. C. on October 31 and November 1 to initiate a study of pistol, smallbore rifle, and high-power rifle competitive rule books and recommend needed changes in the 1954 editions. Rules Committee members who are reviewing the rules for rifle and pistol match shooting are Chairman George R. Whittington, Amarillo, Texas; Vice Chairman Charles A. Brown, Tampa, Florida; James Affleck, Pittsburgh, Penna.; Thomas R. Barnes, Billings, Montana; Edward McDaniel, Cimarron, New Mexico; Marvin D. Driver, Allen Park, Michigan, sitting for John M. Schooley.

Others who attended the meeting on invitation were L. F. Lucas, NRA Deputy Executive Director; Frank Wyman, NRA Secretary; Col. Charles P. Rau, USA, Executive Officer, National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, and Director of Civilian Marksmanship. The competition committee secretaries are George J. Kuch, C. R. Rogers, and R. B. Warye.

The Competition Rules Committee will meet again on December 11 to prepare recommendations for the NRA Executive Committee on match shooting regulations.

### HANDLING PISTOL REFIRE

The scheduled operation of pistol tournaments often is delayed because of the time required to shoot refire strings of timed and rapid fire at the conclusion of each event. A plan for handling refire strings, currently in use by several tournaments, prevents these delays.

Here is the way it is done: At the end of each five-shot string in timed or rapid fire, the chief range officer asks, "Are there any refires?" When a refire is indicated, the range officer announces the target number. The chief range officer notes the target number and instructs competitors and scorers to go forward and score all targets except those to be refired. When the second stage of the match is fired, the first-stage competitor shoots his refire string. The procedure is followed in each stage.

When the last stage of a match has been fired, everyone will have completed firing except competitors who have had a refire. One more string is fired by these competitors.

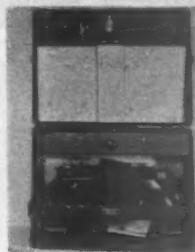
This method of handling refires meets NRA rule requirements as the refire string is fired immediately on the same target.

Since the chief range officer maintains a list of competitors who have refires, there is no chance of a competitor getting more than one refire during any match.

### WOMEN'S POSTAL MATCH

On January 1, 1954, the Third Annual Women's Indoor Postal Matches will begin. In the past these matches have been open only to club teams of four women firing either the rifle or the pistol. This

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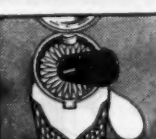
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**OREGON HUNTING SCHOOLS**

Sportsmen in North Bend, Oregon, have taken a progressive step in helping to make better hunters and to prevent future hunting accidents. On September 23 they began a hunting safety school organized along the lines of those operating in New York State.

Twenty-seven junior nimrods were graduated from the course, which was sparked by George Shults, local sportsman and qualified NRA rifle and hunting safety instructor. Shults was assisted by many local residents, including the local game law enforcement officer, a local butcher, and other men who were well qualified to talk on specific phases of hunting, care of meat, and gun handling.

A total of six and one-half hours was scheduled for formal classes, but added attractions demanded that almost two additional hours be utilized. Classes included instruction in safety, good sportsmanship, game care, game identification, equipment, and other points of value to future hunters.

California youths aged 16 years or under, and New York youths 21 and under, are required by state laws to show a "certificate of competence" in the handling of firearms when applying for a hunting license.

No such regulation is in effect at present in Oregon, but many of the sportsmen's groups in the state are voluntarily initiating programs similar to the one carried out by the North Bend group.

(Continued on page 52)

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Made for more than 160 calibers. These dies are precision made of finest materials correctly engineered, and have many years of proven superiority. Per Set... **\$12.50**

**(F) HOLLYWOOD BULLET SWAGING DIES**

Designed for use in the "Senior" and "Junior" Hollywood Reloading Tools. They are now available in 224, 228, 240, 25, 6.5mm, 270, 7mm, 308, 310, 311, 8mm (317 and 323), 335, 9mm, 35, 9.3mm and 375... **\$39.50**

All Reloading Tools are priced without Shell Holders, Primer Rods or reloading dies.

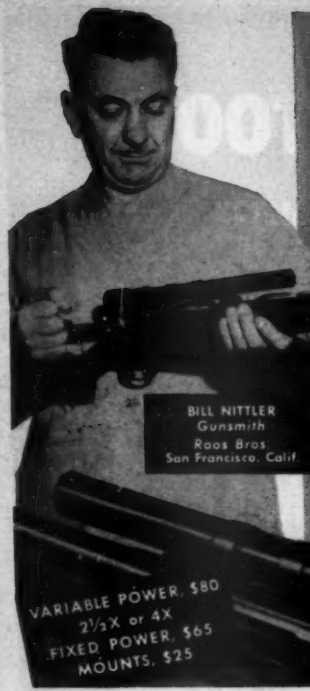
Shell holders, rifle and pistol ..... **\$3.50**

Primer rods for all tools ..... **\$4.00**

We reserve the right to improve our manufactured products in material or design at any time or to increase prices without notice. All products listed on this page are sent "Prepaid" in the U.S.A. Discounts to dealers. Send for complete literature.

ALL TOOLS AND DIES AS SHOWN ARE IN STOCK FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY. ORDER FROM DEALER, OR ORDER DIRECT "PREPAID."

**HOLLYWOOD GUN SHOP** 6116 HOLLYWOOD BLVD. HOLLYWOOD 28, CALIF.



BILL NITTLER  
Gunsmith  
Raas Bros  
San Francisco, Calif.

**BILL NITTLER RECOMMENDS**  
*the BAUSCH & LOMB*  
*Variable Power*  
**HUNTING SIGHT**

"The Bausch & Lomb telescopic sight has the finest lenses made, and they're the only lenses completely sealed in from weather and dust. Windage and elevation are easily adjusted on the Bausch & Lomb scope mount which can be detached quickly when you need to use steel sights. Together the Bausch & Lomb scope and mount make an ideal hunting combination."

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VARIABLE POWER, \$80  
2 1/2 X or 4 X  
FIXED POWER, \$65  
MOUNTS, \$25

**NRA News and Events**  
Continued from page 50  
**INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING FUND**

During October, the following contributions and match entry fees have been added to the NRA International Shooting Fund. The Fund is used to support U. S. participation in international shooting events.

E. O. Franzen, Minneapolis, Minn. . . . .	\$25.00
Northwestern Gun Club, Duluth, Minn. . . . .	20.00
La Habra Rifle Club, South Gate, Calif. . . . .	10.00
Thomas Blakemore, Chicago, Ill. . . . .	5.00
China Lake Rifle & Pistol Club, China Lake, Calif. . . . .	10.00
<b>Entry Fees</b>	
Pulaski Rifle Club, Little Rock, Ark. . . . .	\$48.00
Fresno Rifle & Pistol Club, Fresno, Calif. . . . .	37.00
Chesapeake Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc., Towson, Maryland . . . . .	33.00
Oregon State Rifle & Pistol Assn., Inc., Portland, Oregon . . . . .	33.00
Texas State Rifle Assn., Austin, Texas . . . . .	30.00
Pennsylvania Rifle Club, Indianapolis, Ind. . . . .	25.00
Ft. Worth Rifle & Pistol Club, Ft. Worth, Texas . . . . .	22.00
Libertyville Gun Club, Libertyville, Ill. . . . .	13.00
Rockford Police Pistol Assn., Rockford, Ill. . . . .	12.00
Azalea City Rifle Club, Inc., Mobile, Ala. . . . .	11.00
Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club, Wilmington, Del. . . . .	7.75
	<b>\$341.75</b>

**EMPIRE GUN CLUB**

Mr. Sidney Schumukler, 24 Murray Street, New York City, legal counsel for the Empire Gun Club, would like to contact any former member or officer of the Empire Gun Club Inc. The original Empire Gun Club Inc. was, he believes, incorporated in New York State about 1931. Mr. Schumukler is desirous of incorporating the present Empire Gun Club but cannot because the original corporation has not been dissolved.

**DCM Notes**

**1953 ARMY AREA AND OVERSEAS COMMAND MATCHES**

The Executive Officer of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice (NBPRP) advises that the results of the last Army Area match conducted in 1953 have been considered by the NBPRP and that the Adjutant General has been provided with lists of competitors whose scores justify a recommendation for the award of the prescribed excellence in competition badges.

Five Army Area matches were held by Commanding Generals of Armies within the U. S. and of overseas commands during 1953. The number of shooters participating in each of these matches ranged from 62 to 200.

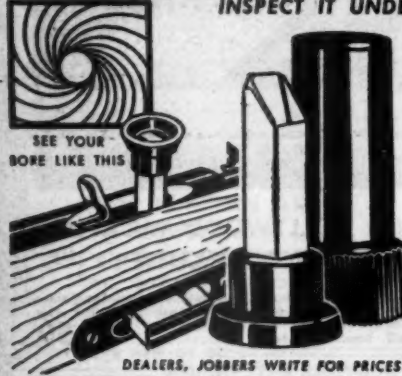
Civilians were invited to participate in two of the Army Area matches. Regulations governing the matches provide that, insofar as range facilities permit, civilians resident in the geographical area of an Army Command may be invited to participate in the Army Area match. The decision to do so rests with the Commanding Generals conducting the matches.

During the course of 1953, the NBPRP has recommended the awarding of excellence-in-competition badges to the following competitors:

	<b>SECOND ARMY</b>	
	<i>Enlisted Competitors</i>	
	<i>Non-distinguished</i>	
<i>Rifle</i>		
M/Sgt Thomas W. Blair		688-45V
<i>Pistol</i>		
M/Sgt Robert T. McDonald		741

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**\$2.00** ppd. including carrying case.  
**2 SIZES FIT ALL GUNS**  
Type "A" fits 22 cal.  
Type "B" fits all others (all rifles, shotguns and hand guns including 22's).

SEE YOUR DEALER OR ORDER DIRECT  
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**WALL RACKS (#401)**

Spanish Cedar or Southern Maple. Fine construction. Finished. Holds guns in level position. Ideal for Den or Gun Room for that hunting atmosphere. Comes knocked-down with all screws. Each piece numbered on back for quick, easy assembly. Width 24". Depth 4 1/2". Stain wood desired.  
1-gun size \$3.90      4-gun size \$7.95  
2-gun size 4.75      5-gun size 9.95  
3-gun size 6.50      6-gun size 11.95  
Felt lined 1 to 3 gun size \$ .50 extra  
Felt lined 4 to 6 gun size \$1.00 extra



See our November Ad for Christmas Suggestions, page 92.

**WISLER WESTERN ARMS**

205 Second Street,  
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**JONES FINE HANDMADE COWBOY BOOTS**

THE FINEST MADE IN TEXAS. A beautiful boot, made entirely by hand with 18 inch tops, 3 rows fancy stitching, swaged shaft, combination riding and walking boot. Made in black, dark brown, wine, tan. Sizes 1 thru 14, widths A thru EE. \$48.00 Postpaid. **SPECIAL ORDERS MADE.** Also handcarved belts with same or initial, billfolds, Indian handbags, caddery goods.  
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Box 215      Lampasas, Texas

**LEHMAN'S Featherweight SCOPE MOUNTS**

Split Rings now available in 1" and 20 mm. \$9.00  
**E. W. LEHMAN**  
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San Diego 3, California



*Other Competitors  
Exclusive of Those  
Previously Distinguished*

Rifle		
Capt William S. Brophy	*712-39V	
Maj Edwin A. Nelson	696-37V	
Whitman Cross, II	*775	
1st Lt Lauris M. Eek, Jr.	*771	
Lt Col Hubert Thomte	*760	
Melwood W. Van Scoyoc	*757	
Capt Walter J. Dixon	756	
Roy Marshall	744	
Maj William B. Hale	741	

**FOURTH ARMY**

*Enlisted Competitors  
Non-distinguished*

Rifle		
M/Sgt Clarence Mock	673	
Pistol		
SFC Travis L. Russell	767	
M/Sgt Harold J. Brown	743	

*Other Competitors  
Exclusive of Those  
Previously Distinguished*

Rifle		
Lt Col Ernest B. Skinner	*688	
1st Lt Wm. L. Bassham	*685	
Capt Stanley C. Waldner	*680	
Lt Col Roy J. Clinton	675	
2nd Lt Dale S. Red	674	

Pistol		
Maj Robert L. Davis	*778	
Lt Col John H. Chambers	*768	
Lt Col Harry F. Waterhouse	766	

**FIFTH ARMY**

*Enlisted Competitors  
Non-distinguished*

Rifle		
SFC Robert L. Taylor	*700	
SFC Joe Heatherly	675	

*Other Competitors  
Exclusive of Those  
Previously Distinguished*

Rifle		
Col John K. Boles, Jr.	692	

**U. S. ARMY CARIBBEAN**

*Enlisted Competitors  
Non-distinguished*

Rifle		
M/Sgt James V. Bailey	*700-39V	

Any officer, warrant officer, or enlisted man of the United States Army, the Army Reserve or the National Guard of the United States, or a civilian citizen of the United States may be designated a distinguished marksman or a distinguished pistol shot. Three excellence-in-competition badges must have been awarded to him, at least one in a National Trophy Match or in any Army Area or overseas command match for having placed in the upper 50 percent of the competitors awarded such badges.

The asterisk preceding certain figures above, indicates that the competitor is in the upper 50 percent of those recommended to receive the excellence-in-competition badge and thereby earns a prerequisite credit toward achieving the distinguished designation.

**Deceased  
Life Members**

The deaths of the following NRA Life Members have been reported:

- E. A. Davidson, New Straitsville, Ohio
- Frederick A. Tiffany, Inglewood, Calif.
- Robert W. Allen, Fresno, Calif.
- E. L. Hughes, Stockton, Calif.
- Joseph A. Brown, Belvidere, New Jersey
- Dr. M. B. Stokes, Houston, Texas.

**Coming Events**

**BENCH REST MATCHES**

- TULSA, OKLAHOMA—December 13, 1953; January 10, 1954. Sponsored by Tulsa Gun Club, Inc., John D. Lahmeyer, 1136 East 37th Street.
- MIAMI, ARIZONA—Monthly Matchea, Leslie F. Kieren.

DECEMBER 1953



**YOUR  
XMAS  
GIFT...**

**longer  
barrel  
MINX**

*"The Pocket Pistol with the Plinking Purpose"*

Now plinking fun for less than one penny a shot with the longer barrel MINX. Duraluminum frame, hinged barrel, automatic or single action as desired, push button magazine release. Excellent for informal outdoor plinking, basement ranges, etc.

For those who prefer the regulation pocket pistol, the standard model MINX with an overall length of 4-11/16" is available at \$33.50.

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**10 GAUGE MAGNUM**

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**32" FULL & FULL CHOKE  
BEAVER TAIL FORE-ARM  
3 1/2" CHAMBER**


**NON-EJECTORS OR AUTOMATIC EJECTORS  
GREENER CROSS-BOLT  
SCOTT BITE IN EXTENSION RIB  
QUADRUPLE UNDERLUGS  
WEIGHS 11 POUNDS  
ANSON AND DEELY ACTION**

This is the gun the entire country has been waiting for. Sorry—No Dealers!

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SAN FRANCISCO GUN EXCHANGE  
91 Fourth Street • San Francisco 3, Calif.**

**SILVER SOLDER TORCH & KIT**

Joins All Metals Permanently **\$7.95** Post Paid



IDEAL for Gunsmiths, Rifemen, Hobbyists, Repairmen, etc. Makes joints stronger than the parent metal itself, also repairs band saws, etc.

**COMPLETE OUTFIT, ready for use, includes:**

- (1) ALCOHOL TORCH, light-weight, gun grip, produces hottest alcohol flame known—2700° F.—operates in any position, indoors or out;
- (2) "GCEL-FLUX" KIT CONSISTING of one tube silver solder flux and 12 8-inch lengths assorted sizes silver solder alloy; and **\$7.95**
- (3) Pint of special alcohol torch fuel—all for

TORCH alone with pint of special fuel \$6.25  
KIT alone \$1.65. Full instructions included  
**AMERICAN PRODUCTS Corp., 422 So. Dearborn, Dept. S-Y, Chicago**

**Inventors**

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**VICTOR J. EVANS & CO.**  
844-P MERLIN BUILDING, WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

**Christmas  
Presents**

Mossberg Spotshot Scope, 20X	\$27.40
New Argus Super Scope, 20X	82.00
B&L BALScope Sr., 20X	95.00
Unertl 63mm. Spotting Scope, 24X	80.00
Freeland All-Angle Tripod	14.25
Freeland Bipod	15.75
Unertl Rifle Scope 1 1/4", 14X	78.00
Unertl Scope, 1 1/2", 16 or 20X	90.00
Super Targetspot, 15, 20, 25, 30X	115.00
10-X Imperial Shooting Coat	20.00
10-X Shooting Glove	5.00
Ta-Pat-Co Shooting Mat	17.50
Schrader Trigger-Pull Gauge	4.25
Myers Sling-Eye Arm Cuff	3.75
Randle Rifle Scope Shade	1.75
Randle .22 Cartridge Block, 50	1.50
Range Timer Clock, 60 min.	4.95
Merit Master Target Disc	3.25
New G.I. Leather Sling, 1 1/4"	2.25
Fair Used G.I. Leather Sling, 1 1/4"	.45
Brauer Pistol Holster	3.50
Win. 73 Target Rifle complete	62.40
Win. 70 National Match 30-06	174.05
Win. 52 Sid. Match, no sights	95.35
With Redfield 63, Olympic rear	121.15
Win. 52 Hvy., no sights	106.90
With Lyman 77H, 525 rear	129.65
Win. 52 Hvy., Redfield Olympic	141.05
Rem. 37 Match Rifle, no sights	109.90
Rem. 37, Redfield Olympic sights	144.10
Ideal No. 310 RELOADING Tool	15.75
Lyman Tru-Line Jr. Press	25.00
Extra set dies, one cal.	10.00
Pacific Std. Tool, One cal.	39.95
Pacific Super Tool	49.95
Extra set dies, One cal.	13.50
Ideal No. 53 Powder Measure	14.50
Saeeco Measure with Stand	17.75
B&M Powder Measure	12.50
Pacific Powder Scale	10.95
Redding Powder Scale	14.00
Ideal No. 43 Lubricator-Sizer	16.00
Wilson Case Trimmer, All Cals.	13.75

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**POWDER**  
 1 lb. cans DUPONT 3831, 4322, 4064, 4350  
 4190 & 4227 HERCULES 2400 & Hivel #2 \$2.00  
 1/2 lb. cans DUPONT Bulk Smokeless & M.X. 1.20  
 1 lb. cans DUPONT 4795, 5006, and 50 1.20  
 1/2 lb. bags HERCULES Red Det 2.00  
 1 lb. cans HERCULES Unique 1.00  
 1 lb. cans HERCULES Bullseye 1.60  
 1 lb. bags 4893 .90  
 1 lb. bags 4831 (4350 data) .90  
 1 lb. cans 4876 .90  
 1 lb. bags 50MG .80  
 Lead shot: 28 lb. bag \$8.00, 5 lb. bag 1.70

**PRIMERS**, Federal, Winchester and Rem. Rifle & Pistol \$7.95 per 1000.

All items below Postpaid.

**HODGDON** Shotshell Reloader, Complete ready for motor, \$18.75. Extra \$8.75.

**POWDER FUNNELS** Hodgdon Safety aluminum 75¢. State caliber. Plastic universal \$1.00.

**REDDING SCALES** \$14.00 **PACIFIC** \$18.55

**HORNADY BULLETS** Per 100  
 2225 and 224 45 gr. Hornet spire SP \$2.65  
 2225 cal 50 gr. Spire SP HV 2.90  
 224 cal 50 and 55 gr. Spire SP HV 2.90  
 257 cal 87 gr. Spire SP, \$3.95, 100 gr. 4.28  
 270 cal 100 gr., \$4.35, 130 gr. Spire SP 4.75  
 30 cal 110 gr. Spire SP, \$4.35, 100 gr. 4.75  
 30 cal 150 gr. Rd nose SP cannelured 4.75  
 30 cal 180 gr. Rd nose SP cannelured 5.00  
 30 cal 180 gr. Spire SP 5.00  
 30 cal 170 gr. Flat nose SP cannelured 5.00

**SIERRA BULLETS** Per 100  
 223 and 224 cal. 40 and 45 gr. Hornet SP \$2.65  
 224 cal 45, 50 and 55 gr. semi pld. 2.90  
 224 cal 63 gr. semi-pointed HV SP 2.90  
 224 cal 45, 50 and 55 gr. spitzer HV 4.90  
 257 cal 87 gr., \$3.95, 100 gr. spitzer SP 4.29  
 257 cal 117 gr. spitzer SP boattail 4.45  
 6.5 mm 120 gr., \$4.45, 140 gr. BT 4.75  
 270 cal 110 gr., \$4.45, 130 gr. spitzer SP 4.75  
 270 cal 130 gr. spitzer SP boattail 4.75  
 270 cal 150 gr. spitzer SP boattail 5.00  
 7 mm 120 gr., \$4.45, 160 gr. Boattail 4.70  
 30 cal 125 gr., \$4.45, 150 gr. spitzer SP 4.70

**BULLETS** M. G. S. Sisk, Spoor, Norma 6.5, 7mm, 8mm, \$2.40 per 50. Complete stock. Ask for list.

**LYMAN, PACIFIC, WILSON TOOLS**

Lyman Scopes, RCBS Loading Dies \$12.50. Pistol \$13.50. D&W Powder Measure, \$12.50. Alean Shotshell wads. Custom made Lubricated Filter \$2.45 per 500. Saeeco Furnace \$28.50. Bullet jacks and wire "Trail" Rotary wad cutter \$7.50. Vickersman \$7.75. Merit Molding Pat \$11.00. Walnut loading blocks 50 hole \$1.00, 20 hole 50¢.

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**SILICONE GUN SPRAY**



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 Gun Sizes! From \$9.55  
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 Dept. G1M, Hallett, Pa.

## GUN COLLECTORS MEETINGS

- DECEMBER**
- 4 CONNECTICUT—Ye Connecticut Gun Guild Meeting at Heublein Hotel, Hartford, Connecticut. Wiley J. Tomlinson, 125 Trumbull St., Hartford, Conn.
- 6 WASHINGTON—Washington Arms Collectors Association Meeting at 517 South 11th Street, Tacoma, Wash. William L. McFarland, Jr., 10220 Whitman Avenue, S. W. Tacoma 9, Wash.
- 14 VIRGINIA—Virginia Gun Collectors Association Meeting at Standard Oil Building, Broad and Hamilton Streets, Richmond, Va. W. Thomas Smith, 305 West Drive, Richmond, Va.
- 18 NEW JERSEY—New Jersey Arms Collectors Meeting at Park Hotel, Plainfield, N. J. Paul J. Westergard, 113 West 7th St., Plainfield, N. J.
- 23 CALIFORNIA—Northern California Arms Collectors Meeting at Lake Merritt Boat House, San Francisco, Calif. J. P. Shaw, 914 Easton Bldg., Oakland, Calif.

- JANUARY**
- 1 CONNECTICUT—Ye Connecticut Gun Guild Meeting at Heublein Hotel, Hartford, Conn. Wiley J. Tomlinson, 125 Trumbull Street, Hartford, Conn.
- 11 VIRGINIA—Virginia Gun Collectors Association Meeting at Standard Oil Building, Broad and Hamilton Streets, Richmond, Va. W. Thomas Smith, 305 West Drive, Richmond, Va.
- 16-17 PENNSYLVANIA—Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association Meeting at Hotel Schenley, Pittsburgh, Penna. John F. Scott, 816 North Euclid Avenue, Pittsburgh, Penna.
- 15 NEW JERSEY—New Jersey Arms Collectors Club Meeting at Park Hotel, Plainfield, N. J. Paul J. Westergard, 113 West 7th St., Plainfield, N. J.
- 23-24 MICHIGAN—Michigan Gun Collectors Meeting at Hotel Detroit, Detroit, Michigan. Robert Ten Eyck, 1824 Glendale, Saginaw, Mich.

## Stolen Guns

The following guns have been reported to the NRA as stolen. Any information regarding these items should be forwarded directly to the person concerned. (All listings are made on the basis of information forwarded to the NRA by the reporting person whose name and address is listed below. (When sending in reports on stolen guns, make certain to include make, model, serial number, caliber and any other identifying marks of a permanent nature.

- .30-30 Winchester Model 94 Rifle, octagon barrel, take down, #923-863, John Frischknecht, 1341 W. 78 St., Los Angeles, Calif.
- .38 Smith & Wesson Military and Police Special Revolver, 2-inch barrel, #162077. Wm. M. Dunbar, 112 So. Sycamore St., Petersburg, Va.
- .45 Smith & Wesson Revolver #210728. Fred W. Parker 4560 Ficarillo, San Diego, Calif.
- .30-30 Winchester Model 94 Rifle, #1842544. Jackie Chapman, Moorecroft, Wyo.
- 12-gauge Winchester Model 12 Shotgun, #1281-999. Fred X. Johnson, P.O. Box 96, Grand Ridge, Ill.
- K-38 Smith & Wesson Masterpiece revolver, #140841. Norman W. Getman, Valley Falls, N. Y.
- .25 caliber Beretta autoloader pistol, #72923; .45 caliber Colt auto, #1971076; .22 caliber Model 922 H&R pistol, #N52649, F. H. Longfellow, 213 Putnam St., Marietta, Ohio.
- .22 caliber J. C. Higgins rifle, with scope, #58370; .38 Colt Police revolver, 5-inch barrel, #680299; .38 Colt Officers Model, #683777; .45 Colt Service Revolver, #117933; Weibull Mark VI Revolver, 6-inch barrel, blue; .38 S&W Special Revolver, #142153; two Hi-Standard Model G 380's, #6293 and 6850; 12-gauge J. C. Higgins Model 20 pump shotgun, #58356; three S&W .455 caliber revolvers, #54738, #42422, and #61051; two Colt Officers Model Special, blue, #788038, #787948; two .22 caliber Ruger semi-auto pistols, #20311, and 20301; 9 mm Colt Commander auto pistol, #16378-LW; two K-38 S&W pistols, #42799 and #55032. Wm. A. Sewell, Jr., Bayboro, N. C.
- .45 Colt Automatic, #C-178282. H. E. MacKenzie, 2699 Golden Avenue, San Bernardino, Calif.
- .300 Savage Model 99, #528-583. Harold W. Shears, 2233 So. Sherman St., Denver, Colo.
- Five .22 Springfielda Model 1922, #8919; 857A; 14166; 11985; and 1982B. Mercer County Rifle & Pistol Club, Aledo, Ill.

- .32 Colt automatic pistol, #296735. Lloyd Croker, 208-7th Street, N.E., Mason City, Iowa.
- .45 Colt Frontier, 3 1/2-inch barrel, #180429. J. G. Johnston, 377 Elsie Street, San Francisco, California.
- .250-3000 Model 99G Savage #238473; 28 gauge Model 37 Ithaca Featherlight, #400640. William J. Weishaar, 421 West 125th St., New York 27, N. Y.
- .32 Winchester Special, Model 64, #108112. J. W. Anderson, Anderson's Gun Shop, Kettle River, Minn.
- .44 Colt Frontier, Bisley Model Revolver, #241941. Charles Hyman, Youngstown, Ohio.
- .410 Gauge Winchester Model 42 pump shotgun, #69102; .30-30 Winchester Model 94, #1553190. Stock of both guns are hollowed out on left side. LaVerne G. Schultz, Jr., R 2 Box 131, Menomonee Falls, Wis.
- .22 Caliber Hi-Standard Automatic Pistol Model D, #34308. F. J. Roddy, 50 Knollwood Avenue, Madison, N. J.



Statement required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) showing the ownership, management, and circulation of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, published monthly at Washington, D. C., for October, 1953.

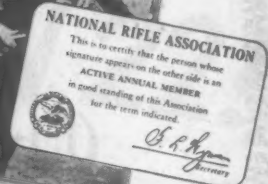
- The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:
- Publisher: National Rifle Association of America, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, D. C.  
 Editor in Chief: Merritt A. Edson, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, D. C.  
 Managing Editor: J. A. Harper, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, D. C.  
 Business Manager: L. F. Lucas, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, D. C.
- The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)  
 National Rifle Association of America, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. No stockholders.
- The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none so state.) None.
- Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.
- The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semi-weekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)  
 L. F. Lucas, Business Manager.
- Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of September, 1953.  
 Lewis E. Thomas, Notary Public, D. C. (seal)  
 My commission expires Oct. 14, 1956.



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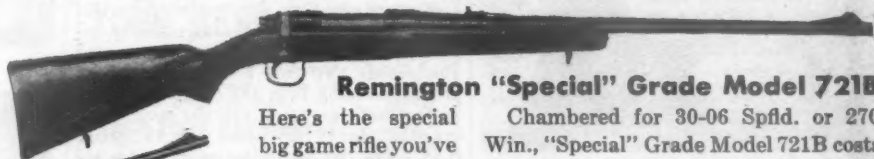
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Trade Dope Questions and Answers Book Reviews  
**DOPE BAG**  
 A technical review  
 New Products Data and Comment

Philip B. Sharpe  
 Rudy Etchen

Julian S. Hatcher, Technical Editor  
 M. D. Waite  
 Harold E. MacFarland

Elmer Keith  
 L. R. Wallack

**Data and Comment**

**SMITH & WESSON TARGET GRIPS**

It is not generally known that Smith & Wesson will furnish, on order, target stocks for their medium K-frame and large N-frame revolvers. The big target stock comes up to the top of the frame but has no material over the back strap. However, the front of the stock forms a filler behind the trigger guard, allowing the weight of the gun to rest on the second finger. Wood extends down the length of the front strap and



Smith & Wesson target stocks come to top of frame and fill behind trigger guard

about 7/16 inch below the butt, providing a large grip that seems to fit most hands. The center of the stocks are full, filling the hollow of the hand and the flaring butt gives good support to the heel of the hand as well as a pleasing appearance. The target stocks aid the shooter in controlling and cocking the arm with a minimum of barrel travel.

Checked walnut target stocks may be ordered with a K-frame revolver for \$5.50,

separately for \$8.25; with an N-frame revolver for \$7.00, separately \$10.50. From time to time target stocks are available for the two sizes of revolvers in various fancy-grain woods for \$6.75 and \$8.25 with the gun \$9.50 and \$11.75 separately.—ELMER KEITH.

**RECHAMBERING TO .357 MAGNUM**

Elmer Keith's answer on page 80 of THE RIFLEMAN for November 1953 has brought a statement from Smith & Wesson discouraging .38/44 conversions to .357 Magnum. We contacted Keith in regard to it and here are his comments.—J. S. H.

Last September when visiting the Smith & Wesson factory at Springfield, Mass., I asked them about converting .38/44 Heavy Duty and Outdoorsman S&W guns to .357 S&W Magnum. They condemned the practice, saying they used stronger steels and different materials in the Magnum, as well as a longer imbedded head cylinder. S&W will not make such alterations to their .38/44's nor do they recommend it, both from the point of strength of the gun and also because it would mix serials and records.

For many years some gunsmiths have converted .38/44 S&W revolvers to shoot the .357 Magnum and I have recommended the change for those shooting only factory loads. As yet I have failed to receive a single complaint of the guns not standing up with factory loads.

The letter in the November Dope Bag was written before my visit to Smith & Wesson.

Many S. A. Colt .38 Specials have also been converted to .357 Magnum by rechambering and I have also recommended this change. To date I have heard of no trouble accruing from the conversion when factory loads are used. Just the same, owners of all .38/44 S&W guns and .38 Special S. A. Colts can have a better and more accurate load by using their .38 Special cases with Keith 160 or 173-grain Lyman bullets or the copies by Seco, backed by 13.5 grains of 2400 powder, than by rechambering and using factory .357 Magnum loads. The 173-grain .38 Special load will also penetrate deeper than will the Magnum load with its slightly higher velocity but much softer bullet.

In fairness to both Smith & Wesson and Colt I present the above facts. If all reloaders will use a bullet mixture not softer than one-to-sixteen tin-and-lead content, and size the bullets to not more than .001

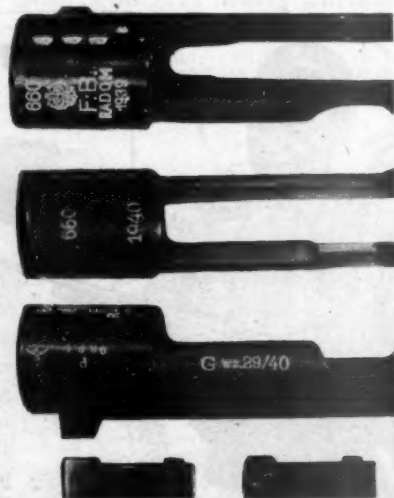
inch larger than groove diameter, and use heavy loads only in the heavy .45 frame guns, there will be far fewer damaged or blown-up guns.

Smith & Wesson will accept no responsibility whatever for any blown up S&W gun that has been in any way rechambered.—ELMER KEITH.

**F. B. RADOM CODE NUMBER**

Since the end of World War II, several authors writing on code letters and numbers found on German arms have listed the numbers 42, S42, S42G, 237, 660 and 925 as indicating Mauser Werke manufacture. This author felt that these were all correct, with the exception of the number 660. Now proof is available that the number 660 is definitely the number assigned to the F. B. Radom plant in Poland.

When the German Panzer Divisions rolled into Poland in 1939 the Polish arsenals in Warsaw and at Radom (some 20 miles from Warsaw) were caught with many Mauser rifles in various stages of manufacture. Some of the receivers were completely finished as well as some of the rifles. These rifles were German Mauser 98s. Production in these plants was carried on under German supervision and completed rifles and receivers were re-marked by German inspectors, and given final proofs. This is shown by the receivers that carry all the Polish markings and dates



Rifle receivers and ejector housings made at Radom factory during German occupation

THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

of 1939. In addition, they carry the German inspection and proofmarks. Directly above the Polish coat of arms appears the newly stamped number 660. On the right side of the receiver ring is found the German inspectors' stamps and on the left side of the ring is the serial number and letter, German fashion, and the final acceptance stamp of the Nazi eagle. On the left receiver wall appears the Polish designation of WZ 29, which has been changed to G 29/40 by striking out the WZ and adding the G and /40, 40 being 1940, the year of adoption by German Ordnance. All rifles made after 1939 lack all Polish markings except the tiny, odd-shaped production inspectors' stamps appearing on the bottom of the receiver; these correspond with those found on the pre-war Radom receivers. Another identification is the type of ejector box peculiar to Polish rifles. In this box the ejector spring assembly is riveted in where those of German manufacture have these two springs mortised in. This riveted ejector box is found on all original rifles with the 660 code number.

No doubt time will disclose other corrections in the complex and interesting German arms codes.—LESTER WOMACK.

### .348 WINCHESTER LOADS

Vernon D. Speer recently announced new bullets in non-standard weights of 180 and 220 grains for the .348 Winchester and .35 Remington. Since no loading data is available with bullets of these weights Mr. Speer is supplying it. The following loads were tested and photographed by him for the .348.

It should be borne in mind that while 4350, 4320, 4064 and 3031 are standard canister powders, 4831 and 4895 are not, and various lots will show considerable variation. It is suggested that canister powders be used.

#### .348 Winchester—180-grain Speer

65 grains	4831	MV	2380	Vel.	200 yds.	1760
67	"	"	2428	"	"	1796
69	"	"	2568	"	"	1895
63	4350	"	2482	"	"	1835
65	"	"	2565	"	"	1896
67	"	"	2660	"	"	1967
54	4320	"	2328	"	"	1720
56	"	"	2440	"	"	1805
58	"	"	2586	"	"	1912
51	4064	"	2351	"	"	1738
53	"	"	2434	"	"	1800
55	"	"	2526	"	"	1867
47	3031	"	2386	"	"	1765
49	"	"	2458	"	"	1817
51	"	"	2540	"	"	1878
48	4895	"	2255	"	"	1668
51	"	"	2342	"	"	1733
53	"	"	2445	"	"	1808

#### 220-grain Speer

61 grains	4831	MV	2054	Vel.	200 yds.	1582
63	"	"	2132	"	"	1640
65	"	"	2216	"	"	1705
58	4350	"	2242	"	"	1726
60	"	"	2310	"	"	1778
62	"	"	2385	"	"	1837
51	4320	"	2112	"	"	1626
53	"	"	2182	"	"	1686
55	"	"	2278	"	"	1754
48	4064	"	2135	"	"	1642
50	"	"	2207	"	"	1700
52	"	"	2286	"	"	1760
45	4895	"	2041	"	"	1571
48	"	"	2118	"	"	1630
50	"	"	2220	"	"	1710

Loading data for the .35 Remington has not been completed. As soon as it is available, it will be reported in these columns.

### LACHMILLER LOADING TOOL

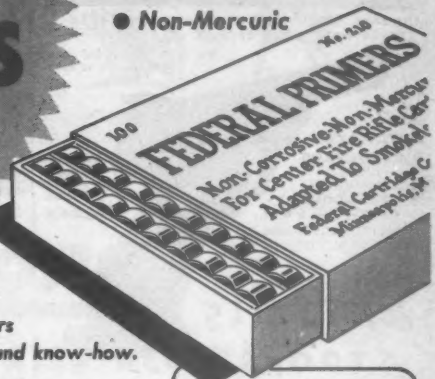
The Lachmiller Engineering Company, 6445 San Fernando Road, Glendale, California sells a loading tool that may be used in loading shotgun shells, rifle cartridges,

DECEMBER 1953

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pistol and revolver cartridges. It is strong enough to swage bullets and form cartridge cases.

A hole in the main casting houses the shell holder slide which is machine honed to insure a good fit. The handle is a solid steel casting shaped to fit the hand and the thrust is applied to the shell holder by a downward motion. An efficient primer-catcher is included with each tool.

The Lachmiller tool is outstanding for loading shotgun shells. The manufacturer furnishes a resizing die with an integral de-capping unit that full-length sizes both paper and brass sections of the shell and removes the fired primer. All fired shot shells should be full-length resized to make them inter-changeable in all chambers of the same gauge gun. The main unit performs the operations of seating over-powder wads and filler wads and crimps the end of the shell.

The crimping device applies a uniform pressure to each shell, producing a clean, new style crimp.

In order to load shot shells that will give uniform patterns and velocity, it is necessary to have a fairly constant over-wad seating pressure. An indicator on the Lachmiller tool shows the number of pounds of pressure being applied and enables the operator to apply the exact poundage desired during this operation.

A wad guide is used for seating all of the wads, but it is not used for any of the other loading operations. The shot shell is inserted into the wad guide, which supports the shotgun shell, and prevents it from bulging when wads are inserted.

Lachmiller sells an automatic and a non-automatic priming tool separately. I particularly like having a separate priming device so that use of the large loading press is not necessary for the priming operation. Since the priming tool can be operated with one's fingers, a large primer pocket can be detected without much trouble.

The Lachmiller loading tool and dies (\$12.50 set) do an excellent job, and I believe the separate priming device is going to be accepted by a great many reloaders.—RUDY ETCHEN.

### HOLLYWOOD BULLET DIES

Hollywood Gun Shop, 6116 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, Calif., has available some extremely useful bullet swaging dies. Priced at \$39.50 per set these dies are available in .22, .25, .270, .30, .375, and 8 mm. calibers, for the use with either the Hollywood "Junior" or "Senior" loading tool.

I was impressed by the workmanship and the dies worked satisfactorily in making bullets. You may be interested in the procedure that I followed.

The first step in making bullets is the preparation of lead bullet cores, either by swaging them in a die or by merely cutting them from lead wire of the proper diameter. I used the latter method, which is simplified by using the multi-caliber lead-wire core cutter available from Hollywood for \$7.50. With this tool it takes but a few minutes to snip off a hundred cores of uniform weight and length. The cores are then pre-seated into the jackets utilizing the core

seating attachment supplied with the die outfit.

The weight of the finished bullet can be predetermined quite accurately by adjusting the weight of the core with the weight of the jacket. The weight, type, and length of the finished bullet can be varied by altering the jacket length or by adjusting the ogive or nose die of the bullet swaging unit to give either a hollow point or full soft-nosed bullet. Any excess core material is bled off through a small vent in the ogive die, thus assuring uniform bullet weight.

Other than the amount of physical effort required, the actual swaging or forming of the bullet is a simple operation, as the dies are almost foolproof in operation. Pre-lubrication of the bullet jackets minimizes friction and definitely decreases the amount of labor required.

The bullet ejected from the die is of standard diameter but the next operation consists of running it through a finish bullet sizing die with the core seating ram, which assures uniform, perfectly round bullets free from lateral ridges. Custom diameter bullet sizing dies are available on special order.

The forming of bullets by hand is a fascinating task, especially since a variety of different shapes and weights can be produced with a single set of dies. There is also a great personal satisfaction involved in the shooting of tight groups utilizing bullets produced by one's own hands. With bullet jackets priced at \$12.00 per thousand and lead wire at 47¢ per pound, it is possible to produce your own special bullets at a cost of around 2¢ each.—M. D. WAITE.

### JOSEPH SAIVE SHOTGUNS

I recently examined two Joseph Saive shotguns which are being imported by Harry R. Sohns of Grafton, Wisconsin. One gun was an over-and-under 20 gauge with double trigger, type 172, which sells for \$495. The other was a double-barrel side-by-side 12-gauge, single trigger, type 69D, which sells for \$375.

Both guns show very fine hand fitting and engraving. The ventilated ribs are of excellent design and I especially like the method used for joining the barrels. The quality of wood used, design of stocks and forearms, and the checkering of both, does not seem to be on a par with the high quality of metal workmanship and engraving. The balance and handling qualities of both guns are very good.—RUDY ETCHEN

## Questions and Answers

### DUCK GUN SPECIFICATIONS

*I plan on buying a Winchester Model 12 shotgun for duck shooting. What barrel length and choke do you recommend?—KNOX B. PHAGAN, JR., Bronxville, New York.*

**Answer by Rudy Etchen:** I recommend the 12-gauge Model 12 Winchester heavy duck gun with a 30-inch barrel that is bored full choke. If you get anything other than a full choke boring, you will not get the extreme efficient pattern at the longer ranges that you will desire when shooting duck.

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## MODEL B4

Scope shown with N Mount. B4 4-power scope \$9.75; B6 6-power scope \$12.50, both including N Mount. Made especially for .22's and rifles of light recoil.

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**HOMOLOGOUS BULLETS**

Ever since that interesting article by Lt. Col. F. W. Whitlock titled "Technical Aspects Of A .25" (November 1952), a number of us have been staging some lively arguments about a few of those "aspects."

The liveliest argument is about comparing bullet weights, and on that subject we are divided in "cube root" and "square root" clans. Those of us who are "squares" contend that Colonel Whitlock, like Mr. Lambert of ".25 Souper" fame, are wrong in comparing bullets on the basis of their cubed diameters in order to derive what they call "homologous" relationships. We concede that the masses of bullets vary as the cube of their diameters or corresponding dimensions, but we also concede that rain is wet and that neither of these two facts have any particularly usable correlation with bullet performance. We contend that mass per unit of cross-sectional area is the only item of any relevance in exterior ballistics.

Now, cross-sectional area varies as the square of the diameter. Therefore, we feel, bullets of a given mass will vary their exterior ballistic performance according to the squares of their diameters, and not their cubes. Hence, we go on to say, there is no operational justification for Colonel Whitlock's statement that his 113-grain .25 bullet "corresponds" to a 194-grain .30-caliber bullet, nor for Mr. Lambert's table of "homologous" bullet weights.

Colonel Whitlock's article was, in general, fine and useful, but we very much hope you will be able to publish some dope to straighten out the "homologous" argument.—WILLIAM H. CORSON, Los Angeles, Calif.

Answer By General Hatcher: As I see it, you and Colonel Whitlock are both correct in your statements.

Homologous means having the same relative proportions. Thus, if you take a 194-grain .30-caliber bullet and shrink every dimension proportionally until it comes down to .25 caliber, it will then weigh 113 grains, which is really all that Colonel Whitlock says. He does not say the exterior ballistic performance will be the same.

If these two bullets of similar shape, but different calibers, are fired at the same velocity, the ballistic coefficient, which is the ability of the bullet to overcome air resistance, will for each bullet be proportional to the weight divided by the square of the diameter. This means that the 194-grain bullet of .308-inch diameter will have about 20 percent better ballistic coefficient than will the 113-grain bullet of .257-inch diameter. You will find, if you calculate it, that this is also the ratio of the diameters, as .308 is nearly 20 percent greater than .257.

The reason for this is simple. The thing that makes air resistance is the cross-sectional area, which varies with the square of the diameter. The thing that overcomes air resistance is mass, which varies with the cube of the diameter. Hence, with homologous bullets, ballistic coefficient varies with the cube of the diameter divided by the square of the diameter, or simply with the diameter. A .50-caliber bullet of the same shape as a .25-caliber bullet will have a ballistic coefficient twice as great. That is the reason a small caliber bullet has to be made extra long to hold its velocity in flight.

**MAGNUM LOADS NOT FOR PARKER**

I would appreciate information about a Parker Brothers shotgun. The serial number is 126927 and it was patented in 1889. It is a hammerless, with modern steel barrels, in good condition. Is it safe for shooting 3-inch long-range ammunition?—FAY TILLEY, Van Nuys, California.

Answer by Rudy Etchen: Your Parker Brothers shotgun was made by the Parker Gun Company of Meriden, Conn. In the early 1930's Remington Arms Company bought out Parker and discontinued the gun after about ten years. This Parker is not safe for 3-inch Magnum loads and I would not recommend trying to chamber it for them. As a matter of fact, many Parker guns have Damascus type barrels that are unsafe with any modern loads. If your gun barrels are stamped Vulcan steel, and are otherwise in the original condition, they are safe for 2¾-inch modern loads.

**CLEANING THE .22 RIFLE**

Should I clean my .22 rifle after each firing session when using modern ammunition?—WILLIS S. SMITH, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Answer by L. R. Wallack: I follow the practice of cleaning my .22 rifle at all times and have never had cause to regret it. However, the smallbore competitor who shoots several times each week and annually fires thousands of rounds can get by safely without frequent cleaning.

**RIFLED SLUGS**

Will rifled slugs harm a full choked barrel? What accuracy can be obtained with this type ammunition?—C. F. KELLY, Missouri Valley, Iowa.

Answer by Phil Sharpe: Shotgun slugs of the commercial rifled type will not injure a full choked barrel. This has been proven and demonstrated many times. The relatively poor accuracy of a slug is not in the slug but in the absence of suitable sights for aiming. With some practice, it is possible to obtain suitable accuracy for deer shooting at 50 yards.

**J. C. HIGGINS SHOTGUN**

I am contemplating buying a 12-gauge J. C. Higgins Model 20 shotgun with choke control and ventilated rib. What is your opinion of the arm? Are parts available if and when needed?—LYNN H. HOSFORD, Jr., Ellington Air Force Base, Texas.

Answer by Rudy Etchen: The J. C. Higgins 12-gauge Model 20 shotgun with muzzle device and ventilated rib is a lot of gun for the money.

You need have no anxiety on the availability of spare parts of J. C. Higgins guns. Sears Roebuck and Co. guarantees that parts for any gun they sell will be available for ten years after Sears discontinues sales of it.

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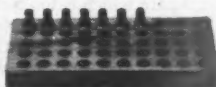
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## FRENCH "ROBUST" SHOTGUN

I would like some information on a 12-gauge double-barrel shotgun which was made in France under the name of Robust.—C. F. NOLAN, Freeport, N. Y.

**Answer by Rudy Etchen:** The Robust shotgun has been proof-tested for a high charge of the French smokeless powder known as Poudre T. This means the gun has been adequately proofed for use with the equivalent of modern low-base ammunition.

## CHECKING HEADSPACE

What is the procedure of checking headspace on a bolt-action rifle such as the Springfield? How can a gun with improper headspace be corrected?—JOHN A. McGUIRE, Cumberland, Maryland.

**Answer by L. R. Wallack:** Checking headspace is simple, but gauges are required. They are made by a number of firms advertising in the RIFLEMAN and I suggest that you buy a set that includes 'Go' and 'No Go' gauges in the calibers you need.

To check Springfield headspace, first make sure bolt and chamber are clean. Then remove the firing pin assembly or push safety to the up position to remove the main-spring tension from the bolt. It is also advisable to remove the extractor so it will not bear on the gauge. The bolt should close freely on the 'Go' gauge and it should not close on the 'No Go' gauge. No other method of checking headspace is accurate or suitable.

Correction of headspace which is too tight is accomplished by reaming the chamber deeper. If the headspace is too loose, the barrel must be set back one turn of the threads, and the chamber cut to give proper headspace. This is a job for a qualified gunsmith.

Due to manufacturing tolerances, bolts for the Springfield vary and it is often possible to correct headspace by switching bolts until one is found which gives the proper headspace.

## .32-20 CARBINE

What game should I hunt with a .32-20 lever-action carbine? What is the effective range of this gun?—RICHARD A. FURNISS, Narbeth, Penna.

**Answer by L. R. Wallack:** The .32-20 carbine is neither particularly accurate nor powerful. The rifle may be used for such small game as crows, wild turkeys, woodchucks, and foxes at fairly close range. I consider 50 yards as the effective range of this rifle.

## 8.15 SCHEUTZEN RIFLE

I have acquired a German Scheutzen (Ayd System) rifle in perfect condition except the sights are missing. This rifle is chambered for the 8.15x46 mm. cartridge. Where can I obtain original sights to fit it.

Can brass be formed from a standard cartridge to fit this chamber?—DR. J. V. DERRICK, Wabash, Indiana.

**Answer by H. E. MacFarland:** I don't believe it is possible to locate the original type of sight for the Ayd System rifle, but you can have a gunsmith design and make a substitute.

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### RETICLE MAGNIFICATION

In a Lyman Super 12X scope with a ¼-minute dot reticle, what would the dot cover at 100 yards if the scope was converted to a 20X?—J. ROINNEL, Hoboken, N. J.

**Answer by Phil Sharpe:** When you increase the magnification of a scope, you also increase the magnification of the reticle. In other words, the ¼-minute dot in a 12X scope will cover ¾ inch at 100 yards. If you step the magnification to 20X, it will cover about 1¼ inches.

### MANNLICHER-CARCANO

How do you remove the extractor from an Italian Mannlicher-Carcano bolt?—DAVID F. BUTLER, Elmhurst, N. Y.

**Answer by H. E. MacFarland:** Getting the extractor off that Italian Mannlicher-Carcano is simple. The tail of it slides into what is more or less a dovetail. Near the hook is a lug which drops into a recess. Take a screwdriver and push the hook outwards with the tip of it; then when the lug clears the recess, pull the extractor forward.

### BURGESS SHOTGUN

I would like information concerning a 12-gauge repeating shotgun made by Burgess Gun Co., of Buffalo, N. Y. Serial number is 2240. The whole pistol grip moves to the rear for extraction and ejection—top ejection. As a matter of fact the action looks somewhat like that of the Winchester Model 64 rifle, with the exception that the shells are loaded from the bottom. It has a 5-shot magazine.—M. C. FRIEDRICK, Patterson, Calif.

**Answer by Rudy Etchen:** The Burgess Gun Company manufactured single-barrel repeating shotguns such as you have in Buffalo, New York, from 1892 to 1899. One of these guns is a very welcome addition to any collector's gun rack in that the unique method of operation, even though not practical, makes it a different piece.

### REMOVING LEAD

How can I remove lead from a rifle barrel without doing any damage?—JACK J. STRAHAN, Bull Shoals, Ark.

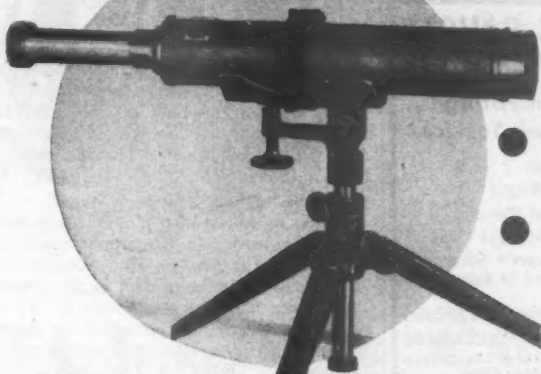
**Answer by M. D. Waite:** Lead can be removed by brisk scrubbing with a properly fitted brass or bronze bristle brush, but heavy lead deposits are best removed with metallic mercury. Simply plug the breech and then pour mercury into the barrel until it is full. Allow this mercury to stay in the barrel overnight and, after the mercury has been poured out, scrub the bore again with a brass bristle brush until all leading has been removed. If a deposit still persists, repeat the mercury and scrubbing treatment until the barrel is free from all lead.

### M1 CARBINE DATA

What is the velocity and energy of the U. S. M1 carbine at muzzle and 100 yards?—IRA GRAY, Corinth, N. Y.

**Answer by Phil Sharpe:** The .30 carbine cartridge uses a bullet weighing about 110 grains at a muzzle velocity of 1970 feet

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per second and muzzle energy of 956 foot-pounds, according to government manuals. At 100 yards velocity drops to about 1550 feet per second, leaving the remaining energy at about 586 foot-pounds.

**CORROSIVE PRIMERS**

Are the rifle and pistol primers marked as shown below non-corrosive? They are marked Primers 30 No. 26, DWG A 131, Ex order 3208, M1 Frankford Arsenal. F. A. 5 3 48 and Primers .45 Cal No. 27, F. A. 1949, DWG A, 1168.—W. C. BURNETT, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Answer by Phil Sharpe: Those rifle primers are the corrosive type commonly but incorrectly called the FA No. 70. Actually No. 70 refers to the mixture used in the primer. The proper name of the primer is "F. A. No. 26", which is the rifle-size primer loaded with non-mercuric but corrosive No. 70 mixture. "DWG A 131" means that Frankford Arsenal Drawing No. 131 on an "A" size sheet gives particulars of this primer. "Ex order 3208" is the production order for this batch of primers. "F. A. 5 3 48" is month, day, and year of manufacture.

Similarly, FA primer No. 27 is the pistol-size primer loaded with the corrosive No. 70 mixture. The other markings on the pistol primer box have the same interpretation as those shown for rifle primers.

**STANDARD AUTOMATIC RIFLE**

Can you give me any information on a .30 caliber rifle made by Standard Arms Company, Wilmington, Delaware? It is a slide action which appears to have a gas port beneath the front sight. The port can be opened or closed to make it either semi-auto or slide action.—R. J. MULVILLE, Midlothian, Illinois.

Answer by H. E. MacFarland: Your rifle is the Standard gas-operated autoloader. It was made in .25, .30 and .35 Remington rimless calibers. Intended to function either as semi-automatic or a slide action rifle, it was built by Standard Arms Co. under patents issued to M. F. Smith. The company was organized about 1909 and remained in business for only a few years.

The design is weak, and performance unsatisfactory. The action doesn't lock adequately, and a small amount of shooting causes excessive headspace and the action slips before the gas acts upon it.

**8 MM. LOAD**

I have been loading 175-grain Sierra spit-ter 8 mm. bullets ahead of 50 grains of Dupont No. 4320 powder. Can you tell me what muzzle velocity I am getting and also the pressure?—CHARLES W. GIBSON, Kansas City, Missouri.

Answer by Phil Sharpe: I do not have any tested 8 mm. loading data with the new 175-grain Sierra bullet. However, look at a comparable 8 mm. load. A 170-grain bullet with 52 grains of No. 4320 gives a velocity of 2689 feet per second and pressure of 46,500 pounds per square inch. With 2 grains less powder and 5 grains more bullet, you are probably getting a velocity of about 2600 feet per second and pressure of 46,000 pounds.

**NICKEL STEEL MARKING**

What is the significance of the N.S. stamped at the top of Springfield bolts?—THOMAS J. ECKERT, Arlington, Virginia.

Answer by L. R. Wallack: The N.S. stamped on a bolt or any other Springfield Armory part indicates nickel steel.

**WHERE DO THEY COME DOWN?**

Have any experiments ever been conducted to determine if the fall of a bullet, fired vertically, can be observed?—G. NORMAN ALBREE, Winchester, Mass.

Answer by General Hatcher: During the latter part of World War I, it became necessary for the Ordnance Department to obtain data on falling bullets because overhead, long-range, machine gun fire was being used, and it was desirable to know just how dangerous a falling bullet could be. Successful experiments were conducted at Miami Beach in the fall of 1919 and the spring of 1920. The firing was done from a platform surrounded by calm, shallow water, and by firing machine gun bursts vertically, the return of the group was made easier to spot, after which single shots could be fired.

At Daytona, the firing was on a wide beach of hard, wet sand, and it proved impossible to locate any returning shots until the winds aloft were investigated by sounding balloons. It was found that at that location the upper winds often blew exactly opposite from those on the surface.

These trials showed that the service 150-grain flat-based bullet, at 2,700 feet per second muzzle velocity, went up about 9,000 feet, talking about 20 seconds to go up and 35 seconds to come down. The fall was at a velocity of about 300 feet per second, which is not enough to inflict a serious wound.

**CONVERSION FOR .30-40**

Would it be more practical and economical to have a Mauser 98 action barreled and chambered for .30-40 or should I get a British Enfield action for this conversion?—OTTEY COTTRELL, Jefferson City, Tennessee.

Answer by H. E. MacFarland: I recommend the Pattern 14 British Enfield as a strong bolt action for the .30-40 cartridge. The Pattern 14 Enfield will handle the .30-40 alteration as it was designed for a rimmed cartridge. It's possible to convert the Mauser to handle the .30-40 but it requires alteration of bolt face and other gunsmithing changes before a rimmed cartridge can be made to feed properly.

**PEEP VERSUS OPEN SIGHTS**

Are peep sights more accurate than open sights?—MILES CURFEW, Springville, Utah.

Answer by L. R. Wallack: Peep sights are much more accurate than open sights.

The shooter with a peep sight merely has to center his eye in the peep, then concentrate on the front sight and the target. With the open sight, one has three objects to work with. Moreover, the peep is always closer to the eye, which provides a longer sighting radius.

**.222 LOAD**

Would you recommend a load for the .222 with the 63-grain bullet and Dupont No. 4198 powder?—JOHN H. PLANTZ, Middletown, Penna.

Answer by Phil Sharpe: Loading data is not

THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN



# STURM, RUGER & CO., INC.

SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT

November 9, 1953

## AN OPEN LETTER CONCERNING DELIVERIES OF THE RUGER "SINGLE-SIX"

The "Single-Six" Revolver was formally announced in the June 1953 issue of the American Rifleman with the expectation that substantial shipments of these guns would follow shortly thereafter. As this is written no shipments whatever of this gun have been made, although we are now very nearly ready to begin.

We have been completely tooled up for several months, substantial quantities of every part have been completed, and a steady stream of work is moving through the plant. A few guns have been put through final assembly and our drawings and engineering have been completely proven throughout. In making our plans earlier this year we expected to reach the point at which we now stand sometime around the end of June. In other words we are about 4 months overdue. The reasons for this are typical; suppliers delivering needed materials to us have failed to keep their promises; badly needed additional help has been almost impossible to obtain; the amount of machine shop time required for the new "Single-Six" parts was greater than anticipated. To sum it all up, we are late in delivery because of an accumulation of small delays.

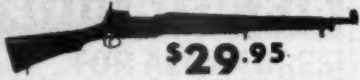
It has been our policy to use, on every job, all the time and money that is needed to do the work properly. Accordingly, every future owner of the "Single-Six" will have a gun that represents the best, not only in engineering and performance but in workmanship as well.

Small shipments will begin around December 1st, but peak production will take several months to attain. It is impossible for us to fill at once all the orders that are at hand. We hope that our position will be understood by all prospective purchasers and that they will bear with us through the coming months while demand so greatly exceeds supply.

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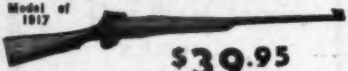
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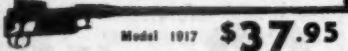


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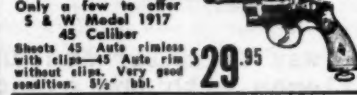


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available for the .222 with the 63-grain bullet but I believe 18 grains of Dupont 4198 would be about maximum with the 63-grain bullet. The .222 is a small-capacity case designed for the 50-grain bullet, however it performs well with the 55-grain, although there is a velocity loss of over 100 feet per second. Loss of velocity with the 63-grain bullet will be even greater.

**8 MM. MAUSER SPORTER**

I would like information on a rifle. It is an 8 mm. with serial number 23651. Markings on the barrel are: 2,75 g GBP HOBUCHSENMACHER, MILLER & VAL, GREISS MUNCHEN. It has a hidden peep sight, "butter knife" bolt handle, two triggers, cheek piece, octagon barrel, weighs 6 1/2 lbs. and is 43 inches long. Is ammunition for this rifle loaded in this country?—E. RAYMOND ROTELLA, Long Island, New York.

Answer by H. E. MacFarland: You apparently have a fancy but conventional German Mauser sporter in the common 8 mm. (8 x 57) Mauser caliber. This cartridge is regularly loaded by such firms as Remington and Winchester. Most sporting goods dealers can supply 8 mm. Mauser cartridges and nearly all bulletmakers sell 8 mm. bullets for handloading it.

**FN FRONT SIGHT**

How can I remove the front sight of a new Fabrique Nationale rifle?—E. F. KASE, Pocatello, Idaho.

Answer by L. R. Wallack: The FN front sight is sweated on and may be removed by applying sufficient heat to melt the solder.

**IDEAL LOADING TOOL**

I plan on reloading .30-30 ammunition. Will the Ideal Model 310 tong tool, with the hand-operated full-length resizer, load accurate ammunition? I would not be interested in loading large quantities.—CHARLES N. CALVIN, Piedmont, Calif.

Answer by H. E. MacFarland: For the man who isn't in a hurry, or who doesn't plan to load a quantity of ammunition, the Ideal Model 310 tong tool will do a very nice job. It requires a little more time, skill, and practice, but with this tool a person can assemble good, accurate loads.

**NORWEGIAN KRAG STRENGTH**

Is the Norwegian Krag action safe for conversion to the .300 Savage cartridge?—JACK L. SOMMERS, Warm Springs, Montana.

Answer by H. E. MacFarland: Workmanship and material of the Norwegian Krag are so good that I personally wouldn't hesitate to use a .300 Savage cartridge in it.

**UNUSUAL .30-'06 CARTRIDGE**

I have a .30-'06 cartridge with headstamp of FA 9 05. How is this possible when the 1903 was the official cartridge in 1905?—JAMES SAYDER, Shamokin, Penna.

Answer by Phil Sharpe: Your cartridge is probably a long neck 1903 case which has been reworked. It was the practice in the days before World War I for troops to turn in all fired cases. The cases were shipped back to Frankford Arsenal, cleaned, reloaded, and reissued. The old 1903 cases were trimmed to '06 length.

### .45-90 AS A BRUSH GUN

Is the .45-90 considered to be a good 'brush gun'?—VIRGIL L. FLINN, Charleston, West Virginia.

**Answer by Elmer Keith:** Even though obsolete, the .45-90 is a good 'brush gun'. I never cared for it because it uses a short stubby 200-grain bullet and I prefer the .45-70 with 405-grain slug.

### .35 W. C. F. PRESSURE

What is the working pressure and the maximum pressure of .35 W.C.F. loads which can be fired safely in the Winchester '95 rifle?—ROBERT A. DAVIS, JR., Athens, Tennessee.

**Answer by Elmer Keith:** Working pressure of the Winchester Model '95 rifle is about 45,000 pounds and maximum safe pressure about 49,000 pounds. In handloading for this rifle, I recommend staying well below the maximum safe pressure. Continuous use of heavy loads will upset the long breechblock and increase headspace.

### 14 GAUGE GREENER SHOTGUN

I have a 14-gauge W. W. Greener hammerless shotgun with Danascus steel barrels. It was made to order for my father in 1893, and is in perfect condition. Do you know where I can obtain components for reloading the brass shells?—H. PAYNE BREAZEALE, Baton Rouge, La.

**Answer by Rudy Etchen:** Your 14-gauge W. W. Greener shotgun is a collector's item. Greener made some of the best shotguns and 14-gauge guns are quite rare.

Inquire of Philip J. Medicus, 18 Fletcher Street, New York 38, N. Y., about 14-gauge loading components.

### HYBRID SPRINGFIELD RIFLE

I have a Springfield rifle that is marked on the receiver: "U. S. Rock Island Arsenal, 1903, No. 1296927."

The barrel, however, is stamped "S. A., 11-28" with the Ordnance flaming bomb. I would assume from the barrel marking that it is a Springfield Armory barrel, made or installed in November of 1928.

I understand that Rock Island Arsenal discontinued manufacturing Springfields on June 30, 1919. Did Springfield Armory actually install the barrel on this Rock Island receiver?

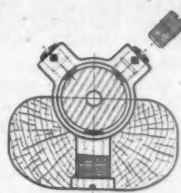
I would assume that my Rock Island receiver No. 1296927 is of nickel steel and not double heat-treated. Is that correct?—GEORGE P. WONG, Watsonville, California.

**Answer by Phil Sharpe:** Rock Island Arsenal started production May 4, 1904, and suspended November 17, 1913, completing 234,830 rifles in the intervening years. Between 1913 and the start of World War I, they assembled 485 rifles from parts on hand. On February 25, 1917, production was resumed, and on June 30, 1919, the shops were permanently closed, with a total production of 346,779 rifles. This should officially be the highest serial number on a Rock Island rifle.

However, a large number of unfinished parts were on hand which were sent to Springfield Armory for use. Hatcher's Notebook states, on pages 223 and 224: "While Rock Island had been using nickel steel for

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part of their production since August 1918, Springfield first approached a change to this material in 1926. In March of that year, after the manufacture of rifles had been discontinued at Rock Island, 25,600 unfinished nickel steel receivers, together with a number of other unfinished parts were shipped to Springfield to be finished."

These Rock Island receivers were forged of steel stated to be Hot Rolled Nickel Steel, S. A. Specification 35-N. S.

Springfield Armory completed the manufacture of these receivers, the first one being finished about April 1, 1927, and numbered 1,275,767.

The name Rock Island Arsenal was placed on the receiver at an earlier stage of the manufacture than the serial number, which explains these Rock Island receivers with Springfield Armory barrels and serial numbers in the Springfield series.

**BLACKPOWDER SHOT SHELLS**

I have a 12-gauge shotgun with Damascus barrel, a Francotte, made in Liege. Who sells blackpowder ammunition suitable for this gun?—DOUGLAS STIMSON, Seattle, Washington.

**Answer by Rudy Etchen:** Philip J. Medicus of 18 Fletcher Street, New York 38, N. Y., can supply 12-gauge blackpowder shells that would be suitable to shoot in your Belgian made Francotte.

**20 GAUGE CHAMBER DEPTH**

How can I tell if my 20 gauge Winchester Model 12 shotgun is chambered for the 2 3/4-inch shell?—EARL H. RHOADS, Redding, California.

**Answer by Rudy Etchen:** You have two alternatives. One is to consult a gunsmith and have him measure the chamber depth. The other is to write Winchester Repeating Arms Company at New Haven, Conn., give them the serial number of your gun, and ask if the gun has the long chamber.

**.22 CALIBER SPRINGFIELDS**

Are either the M1 or M2 caliber .22 Springfield rifles for sale?—OSCAR A. BLAKE, New York, N. Y.

**Answer by Phil Sharpe:** The caliber .22 Springfield, first known as the Model 1922, later the M1, and in improved version M2, has not been manufactured for some twenty years. These were excellent rifles, but their manufacturing cost was so great that the Ordnance Department dropped them and officially went to .22 target rifles purchased from commercial arms makers.

These rifles have not been offered for sale for many years, and parts are no longer available. A collector would consider one of these rifles in perfect condition to be a prize.

**LOADS FOR .218 BEE**

All three of my handloading manuals list a load of 15 grains of 4198 powder with a 50-grain bullet for the model 43 Winchester .218 Bee. But I find that 15 grains of 4198 fills my Remington cases up into the necks and that the seated bullet will touch or slightly compress the powder. Do you think this load would be dangerous? I have worked up to 14 1/2 grains and there

does not seem to be any excessive pressure yet. After a year of experimenting I have found that I get better accuracy out of 4198 powder than either 4227 or 2400 powder.—A. S. HARRISON, Grand Rapids, Ohio.

**Answer by Phil Sharpe:**—In the .218 Bee, with current brass, the charge of 15 grains of 4198 powder is very dangerous.

Nearly three years ago the Bee case was strengthened and made heavier. This called for a reduction of powder charge. The change was announced publicly.

In the old brass, a charge of 15 grains of 2400 powder with a 45-grain bullet, and up to 12 grains with a 50-grain bullet could safely be used. In current brass, maximum charge of 2400 powder with a 50-grain bullet is 11.8 grains, which gives a velocity of 2725 feet per second.

Compressed charges of powder can be very dangerous. 4198 powder is not the best powder for the .218 Bee, for it builds velocities slowly, although pressures climb rapidly. You may get good accuracy with a full charge, but the velocity of the bullet will be much lower than you realize.

**BALLISTIC PENDULUM**

Somewhere I was once told of "Freemantle's Formula," an expression for ballistic pendulums as used by riflemen to determine muzzle velocities. This formula, I believe, involves the bullet and pendulum weights, as well as the half period of the pendulum. I have derived it to my satisfaction, but I would like to know something of its origin. We have a small ballistic pendulum for demonstration to our classes in mechanics, and I would like to be able to tell a complete story.—R. S. HARTENBERG, Evanston, Ill.

**Answer by General Hatcher:** T. F. Freemantle, in his work *The Book of the Rifle* published in 1901, makes a brief reference to ballistic pendulum as follows:

"The writer has one similar to that used by Mr. Metford in his experiments, which is hung by four wires in front and the same behind, a length of some 2 feet 6 inches being given to the pendulum bob, and the wires spread laterally at the points of suspension, so that it can only swing in one direction. The attachment of the wires to the pendulum and to the sockets from which it is hung is by bearings having knife-edges. This reduces friction and makes the movement of the pendulum independent of the precise point at which the face of it is struck. To get true results with a pendulum it is necessary that the whole of the fragments of the shot should be caught, and this is effected by fitting a steel shield 8 inches in diameter in the head of the pendulum and placing in front of it a wooden block some 2 inches thick. The bullets pass through this and break up on the steel shield, and their fragments cannot escape. The weight of the wooden block, which has to be renewed after a few score of shots, is taken into account, and the weight of the pendulum is maintained by placing upon a little shelf attached to it a number of bullets of the kind about to be used, and removing one for each one that is fired into the pendulum. A sliding index pushed back by an adjustable screw at the tail of the pendulum gives the measurement of the horizontal swing from which the velocity is calculated."

While he says a bit more about the ballis-

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tic pendulum, Mr. Freemantle does not give the formula. However, *British textbook of Small Arms, 1909*, says:

"The most obvious modification is the substitution of a heavy iron pendulum bob about 1 foot in diameter faced with wood supported by about 5 feet of piano wiring with knife-edge hinges, for the T-shaped iron rocker with wood face. This at once gets rid of the necessity for working out the virtual weight of the pendulum, and again the bob-weight plus one-third of the weight of the wires gives the weight to use in the calculations.

"By this one modification (due to Metford) the formula for velocity can be simplified by the avoidance of several corrections. The main formula is unaltered, viz., weight of bullet multiplied by bullet velocity equals weight of recoiling parts multiplied by their velocity, but the items required are fewer and more easily measured.

"The velocity of the recoiling parts when the angle of swing is small and when  
 $v =$  foot seconds of recoil  
 $a =$  inches of recoil  
 $n =$  swings to and fro in one minute is as follows:

$$V = \frac{2\pi n}{12 \times 60} \times a = \frac{\pi a}{114.7} \text{ F.S.}$$

"The weight of the recoiling parts is the weight of the bob (W lbs.) plus the weight of the bullet (w lbs.) embedded in it, so that with V as the striking velocity

$$wV = \frac{(W \text{ plus } w) \pi a}{114.7}$$

which is the accurate working formula for the ballistic pendulum.

$$\frac{\text{The value}}{2\pi n} = \frac{a}{n}$$

$$\frac{12 \times 60}{114.7} = \frac{a}{114.7}$$

is a mere numerical constant which can be evaluated once and for all by observing the number of complete swings (to and fro) made in one minute."

#### COLLECTOR'S KRAG

I have come into possession of a Krag Model 1896, Springfield Armory rifle and on the stock are two silver plaques. One bears the inscription: "Magazine Gun Board 1890. Lt. Col. R. H. Hall, 6th Inf.; Lt. Col. J. P. Farley, Ordnance; Maj. H. B. Freeman, 16th Inf.; Capt. P. E. Blunt, Ordnance Recorder; and Capt. G. P. Anderson, 6th Calv. From J.P.F. to G.P.A. Xmas 1898." On the other side of the stock there is another plaque hearing the following information: "Board of Detail of Construction for Rifle & Carbine 1890-1892. Col. Alfred Mordecai; Lt. Co. J. P. Farley; Capt. P. E. Blunt; Capt. Daniel M. Taylor; and Lt. J. Walker Benet."—J. R. SIMPSON, Wilson, N. C.

Answer by Phil Sharpe: It would seem that you have run into a real collector's item. The "Magazine Gun Board of 1890" was a group which supervised testing of various rifles resulting in the adoption of the Krag. It appears that Colonel Farley presented this special rifle to Capt. Anderson and probably made similar ones for other members of the board. I doubt that the presentation was an official government presentation. The U. S. paid \$1.50 royalty

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to Denmark on every Krag made in this country. It was redesigned slightly, however, and while it was called the Model 1892, the first were not made until 1894.

### HOW TO STORE YOUR GUNS

Several gun enthusiasts are leaving for the Armed Forces very shortly and the question has arisen as to how to store our guns to prevent them from being damaged while we are away. I am extremely desirous to have my guns properly cared for. They may have to go unattended for as long as six months or a year. We have consulted various books and gunsmiths, and have received a wide range of opinions and advice.—JOSEPH E. PACE, JR., Murray, Kentucky.

**Answer by General Hatcher:** You can easily fix up your rifles, shotguns or pistols so that they will be in good shape when you return. Run a dry rag through the bore, then clean the bore out with one of the several powder solvents on the market, all of which are good for this purpose. Also, in the case of revolvers or automatic weapons which may be smoked up around the breech, clean off the fouling or sooty deposit at the front of the cylinder or around the breech of the gun with the same light solvent and wipe the metal dry. Similarly wipe off any fingerprints or foreign material from the outside of the gun with the same powder solvent.

After wiping the gun dry, inside and outside, coat the bore with Rig Gun Grease. Do this by taking a patch and saturating it with Rig and then running it through the bore. That will leave a barely perceptible film of Rig in there, but nevertheless it will protect your gun.

Then in the same way coat the breech mechanism, front end of the cylinder, etc., in revolvers with Rig and then coat the whole outside of the gun with Rig. Only a very thin coating is necessary. Take a rag or patch and saturate it with Rig and rub it over the gun.

After the guns have been treated in this way they can be stored with no further protection, preferably in a gun cabinet to keep off the dust. Don't store them in the cellar if you live in a damp climate. If you happen to store them in the attic, be sure it is ventilated, as sometimes when an attic is kept shut up tight the change in temperature outside will cause moisture to deposit on metallic objects.

If your guns are stored as described they will keep for years with no deterioration.

The very latest method of storing them, and an excellent one, is to place them in air-tight bags containing Vapor Phase Inhibitor, otherwise known as "VPI." This chemical generates a vapor which coats the surface of the metal and stops any rusting. In case VPI is used it is not necessary to grease the guns at all, but it is better to grease them just to eliminate fingerprints, etc.; so if you want to do so you may treat the guns exactly as previously described, then place them in an air-tight bag treated with VPI or containing VPI-treated paper. Such bags are sold by The Hood Company, 11048 S. VanNess Ave., Los Angeles 47, California, The Stephens-Douglas Company, P. O. Box 17177, Houston, Texas, and by Frederick & Laurence, Dept. B, Box 117, Detroit 31.

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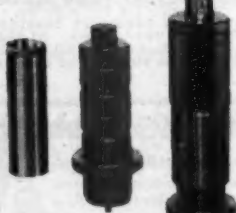
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**SINGLE-SHOT HAENEL**

A friend of mine has a single-shot Haenel rifle, System Aydt. We are trying to determine just what cartridge it takes or what it might be re-chambered for.

On that part of the underside of the barrel covered by the forearm there are a number of markings, one of which clearly says 7.7 mm. In our limited experience we do not know of a German cartridge of this caliber, though some are very close.

Can you tell us anything about this cartridge, and if the ammunition is obtainable? In case we wished to use this barrel, but re-chamber it for a more common cartridge, can you tell us just what it might take?—W. J. WINTER, St. Augustine, Fla.

Answer by Phil Sharpe:—That Aydt System is one of the German Schuetzen rifles, designed for the low-pressure match cartridge, known as the 8.15x46R, using a 170-grain lead bullet at a velocity of about 1500 feet per second. It is extremely accurate to 300-meters. The case can be formed from .32/40 or .32 Winchester Special cases, and the proper reloading dies are available from the major tool makers. Slug the barrel to determine diameter. It probably will run around .323-inch. Cast bullets of about 170 to 180 grains can be used with 13 grains of 4759 powder. Do not use jacketed bullets or high pressure loads in this rifle.

**G 33/40 RIFLE**

What steel was used in the manufacture of the German G 33/40 Mauser action? Can you give me the tolerances and part specifications?—T. C. DAVIDGE, Los Angeles, California.

Answer by H. E. MacFarland: To my knowledge, there is no technical data on the G 33/40 rifle in print. The rifle was made at the Brno Works in Czechoslovakia as a featherweight weapon with the stock hinged at the rear of the tang. In most cases G 33/40 parts are interchangeable with those of the standard '98 Mauser. It has a small-ring action with small thread. The receiver has been milled down to eliminate all weight that can be taken off without sacrificing strength. The alloy, as nearly as can be learned, is that of most military Mausers, similar to an S.A.E. #1035, low-carbon steel, with a carburized surface. Czech workmanship on the G 33/40 Mauser was good. Tolerances and parts specifications are similar to those of other Mausers.

**.32 IDEAL STEVENS**

Is the .32 Ideal Stevens single-shot action strong enough for the .22 Hornet cartridge?—WARREN SLEIGHTER, Middleton, Penna.

Answer by H. E. MacFarland: Stevens once built rifles for a long straight cartridge which they called the ".32 Ideal". This caliber seems to have been available around 1910 on either of two actions. Both actions were known as the "Ideal" but they are different. Model 44 is a weak, swinging block action used for cartridges as large as the .38-55, but it should be used only for modern rimfire calibers. I believe most .32 Ideal caliber rifles were built on the Model 44 1/2 action. This is a falling-block action in which the breechblock moves vertically before swinging back. The 44 1/2 action safely handles cartridges as potent as the .22 Hornet. Remove the forearm of your rifle,

and the model number may be found. It is usually stamped on the front end of the receiver beneath the wood. If the rifle is marked "44½", you would be safe in having the action barreled for the .22 Hornet, provided the firing pin is bushed to a nose diameter of .065 to .070 inch.

### .22-250 IN MEXICAN MAUSER

Is the Mexican Mauser rifle action satisfactory for conversion to the .22-250 cartridge?—CONSTANTINO SANDOVAL, Lebanon, Oregon.

Answer by L. R. Wallack: Yes, it is practical to use the Mexican action for the .22-250 conversion. Made for the 7 mm. cartridge, the action, properly fitted and prooftested, is amply strong for the .22-250.

### FORMING .257 ROBERTS CASES

Is it possible to reform .30'06 brass into the .257 Roberts case?—H. W. BORMAN, Port Wentworth, Georgia.

Answer by Phil Sharpe: You can make the .257 Roberts case from .30'06 brass, but I do not recommend it.

The formed case is heavier, and the neck is thicker than the .257 case, so that a special reamer is required to thin the neck to hold the bullet. The heavier case will have less powder capacity, and thus you will have to cut all loading data.

## New Products

Douglas Bore-Honed Ultrarifled .22 caliber barrels, made by barrelmaker G. R. Douglas, Rt. 3, Box 297-A, Charleston, West Virginia, are made by the use of a rifling finishing process that does not involve the use of abrasives, and that is said to produce a barrel of remarkable uniformity and smoothness. Douglas states that this process is one on which he has worked for a long time in achieving a barrel of fine accuracy using production methods.

Douglas uses the best grade of chrome molybdenum steel, double heat-treated for maximum stability in manufacture and use, and with a final treatment to a Rockwell hardness of approximately 32 on the C scale.

The barrel that we examined came with a target marked "first and only group fired with this .22-250 barrel on Mauser actions; group has vertical spread due to firing over sandbag without benefit of fore-end. Charge was 31½ grains No. 3031, Federal primer, 55-grain Sierra round-nose bullet."

This 5-shot 100-yard group was 9/16-inch high, and 3/16-inch wide.

Douglas sells these Ultrarifled barrels of premium quality in target weight, turned to size, "ground finish" either rim or center fire, not chambered or threaded, for \$37.50; or fitted to customer's action for \$55.00 up.

Primer Pocket Cleaner made and sold by R. Pezzi Mfg. Company, 612 South Reid Street, Detroit, Michigan, is a handle-equipped short rod of specially selected wood which fits tightly in a primer pocket and is rotated to clean it. The Pezzi cleaner performs well without reaming or otherwise damaging the primer pocket. It is made in either large rifle and pistol primer pocket size, or the small rifle and pistol size, and sells for 39 cents.

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The "Junior" loading tool for sale by the Hollywood Gun Shop, 6116 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, California, is a tool of reasonable cost that is suitable for loading almost any rifle cartridge, pistol cartridge, or shotgun shell. Also adapted for swaging bullets of .22 to .375 caliber, the tool operates on the downward movement of the operating handle. The linkage provides adequate leverage for heavy duty work. Base and top-plates are of aluminum and other parts, handle excluded, of machined steel. The cast steel operating handle will take the special handle extension available for use with all Hollywood loading tools. The tool alone costs \$25.00. To use the tool it is necessary to purchase a shell holder for \$3.50 and a primer rod for \$4.00. A special top die-holder casting for use with shot shell loading dies is priced at \$10.00, and dies in one caliber for \$12.50.

**Pecar-Berlin Riflescopes**, imported by Charles W. Leavell, Sumter, South Carolina, feature German designed and produced optics with a quick-removable reticle housing. By loosening three screws, the entire reticle assembly can be lifted off to prevent damage to the scope in mounting.

The Pecar system of interchangeable reticles permits the owner to select a reticle that suits him.

Made in 2½, 4, and 6 power, with two sizes of objective lenses, Pecar-Berlin scopes are made in five different types, ranging in price from \$52.00 to \$65.00.

**Saf-T-Gun**, a device which locks over the trigger guard of a small arm and prevents the trigger from being pulled until removed with a key, is being sold for \$2.95, postage prepaid, by Safety Products Division, Box 403, Dept. 46, Santa Monica, California.

**VPI Vaporizer Gun Case**, sold by Frederick & Laurence, Dept. B., P. O. Box 117, Detroit 31, Michigan, is a full-length gun case of a dark brown material resembling artificial leather. The inside surface is impregnated with Shell Development Company's Vapor Phase Inhibitor. VPI prevents rust on any steel or iron article enclosed in the case. The case is tough enough to protect the gun from scratches.

The manufacturer states that the chemical in the case will afford protection for four years. There is a handgun case available, also. Gun case sells for \$4.00 postpaid, handgun case for \$2.75; both together, sell for \$6.

**GuNest**, sold by GuNest Mfg. Co., Box 2252, Portland 14, Oregon, is a rigid, trunk style gun case lined with a flannel-like cloth over thick pads of foam rubber. It is four feet long, 10½ inches wide, and 4 inches deep. It weighs about 16 pounds, and costs \$32.50, postpaid. A descriptive folder is available from the maker.

**Crow Blind**, priced at \$7.50, by Hoffman Awning Co., 627 Gutman Ave., Baltimore 18, Md., is made of netting, printed in a camouflage design of light and dark green and brown tones, which should make the hunter hard to spot.

## Trade Dope

**Martin Retting**, 5851 Washington Blvd., Culver City, California, is selling for 50¢ in coin, copies of his new 150-page catalog

THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

on antique and modern guns and edged weapons. This catalog is of interest not only to the would-be purchaser of a collector's item in the firearms field, but also to anyone who is a collector or student of firearms. It describes and illustrates guns from the earliest matchlocks down to the latest in modern military and sporting automatics and many types of ammunition and loading tools.

Frank Clark, Jr., 1202 W. 32nd St., Cheyenne, Wyo., is U. S. Agent for Parker-Hale tubes made by Parker-Hale, Ltd., Birmingham, England. In .22 long rifle, .22 Hornet, .218 Bee, .25-20, .32-40, and .32 Winchester Special calibers the tubes are made with 8 grooves. The 6.5 and 7 mm. tubes are made with 4 grooves. Clark also has Parker-Hale Celluloid-covered one-piece cleaning rods. A circular and price list are available from Mr. Clark.

Brownell Industries of Montezuma, Iowa, is packaging many items formerly unavailable to the smaller shop in economical, small, units.

The products are listed in the new Brownell gunsmiths supply catalog, which is free to NRA members.

Frank H. Miles, Gunsmith, Box 324, Bedford, Virginia, now makes cartridge cases for many blackpowder rifles. Prices will be furnished those who write him giving complete specifications for the type of case desired.

Francis X. Ficora, a licensed firearms dealer, announces the opening of his Sportmen's Lodge, 348 Hutchinson Ave., Mount Vernon, N. Y., specializing in police equipment and sporting goods.

Gun & Parts Catalog No. 6, from N. F. Strebe Gunworks, Strebe Building, 5404 Marlboro Pike, S. E., Washington 27, D. C. This is a profusely illustrated 46 page book, notable for its many "exploded" views of both foreign and domestic guns. It is available for \$1.00.

## Book Reviews

### HOW TO HUNT A Guide for Beginners

By George B. Turvell, Jr. illustrated, 64 pages, paperbound. New York: Greenberg, \$1.00

An excellent handbook for the beginner, this book takes the youngster in tow from the purchase of his first gun—be it air rifle, smallbore rifle, or shotgun. It offers a wealth of useful hints on how to shoot each type of arm, gives safety precautions to be taken in using each, and stresses proper care of firearms.

The chapter entitled "Before You Hunt" alone makes the book valuable to any youngster entering the hunting fields. The writer has given excellent advice on all phases of equipment, including clothes and foot gear.

The ten chapters in the book answer more questions on the range and characteristics of small game, large game, waterfowl, and the hunting of them, for beginning hunters than any book of its size I have seen.

—ELMER KEITH

DECEMBER 1953



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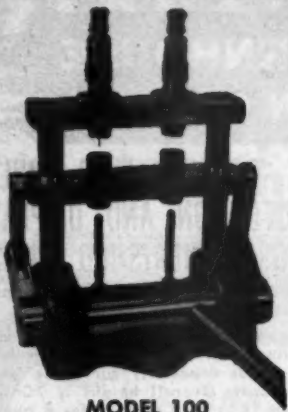
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**Electric Bedding**

Continued from page 43

ring after being turned in to contact the barrel and backed out a number of clicks. If they do not, the barrel may be pressing against the ring itself after the top screws have been turned out several clicks from zero. If the barrel presses on the ring, the setting of the device cannot be changed by backing out the top screws.

4. After the top screws are backed out to the proper setting, turn both bottom screws into light contact with the bottom of the barrel. Then, turn each screw alternately a fraction of a turn at a time so that they tighten against the barrel almost simultaneously. Don't turn one bottom screw up tight by itself or you may clamp the barrel between it and the diagonally opposite top screw. This will prevent the barrel from settling into the V-rest formed by the upper screws, and the shooter can not obtain the desired setting.

5. Support your gun by the stock only when settings are being made. Believe it or not, I have seen shooters adjusting bedding devices with the muzzle of the gun barrel resting on the top of a cleaning rack. No wonder they complain that their settings are never consistent and results are generally poor!

6. Develop settings for electric bedding devices indoors. Conditions outdoors will never be perfect enough to let you obtain optimum settings. I 'tune' my rifle on a 50-foot indoor range until the group size and point of impact from bull to bull are consistently what I have come to expect. Then, it is a pleasure to see the rifle perform outdoors at 100 yards.

7. Experiment with the setting of the bedding device until you find the best one, but don't forget that the best setting will vary from lot to lot of the same brand of ammunition.

8. Occasionally check the bushings which hold the bedding device to the stock. Sometimes they work loose. The looseness caused by a half turn can cause an 'X-ring' bedded rifle to throw a flier.

9. Inspect the settings on your bedding device from time to time during the day when shooting in extremes of weather conditions.

10. Release the tension on the device after the day's shooting is over and reset it before the next day's match. This will avoid any chance of the stock taking a permanent set due to tension from the bedder.

If you follow the manufacturer's instructions, and also avoid my mistakes, you will find that an electric bedding device will do all it is supposed to do. Learn how to use it properly. Then it will seem like a master gunsmith is checking your rifle before each match.



## How Improved is it?

continued from page 39

This test barrel was then rechambered to handle the Ackley Improved .30-'06, and the rest of the lot of ammunition was fired in this chamber, thus forming the cases. All the cases were sized full length and reprimed using the same lot of primers. Sizing dies for the Ackley Improved cases were made with the same reamer used to rechamber the Mann test barrel.

With the exception of the overload shown in the tables, all loads were planned to develop from high-medium to near-maximum pressures. The overload was tested to determine the ability of the Ackley Improved case and chamber to handle unusually high pressures.

Loads IV and V are maximum capacity loads in the standard and Ackley .30-'06 cases respectively, if the bullet we used is seated so the loaded round will function through the average rifle magazine. They were tested to further evaluate any possible advantage the 'improved' case might gain from its extra powder capacity.

Bullets used in the test were selected for uniformity, and powder charges were weighed to one-twentieth of a grain. The .30-'06 loads were fired in a Springfield pressure barrel mounted in a Modern-Bond Universal Receiver, and the pressures recorded for each shot. Simultaneously, the velocities were measured at twenty feet from the muzzle of the gun with photo-electric screens and a Potter Counter chronograph. After all of the loads had been fired in the .30-'06 cases, the pressure barrel was rechambered with the reamer used throughout the test for the Ackley Improved .30-'06 cartridge. The headspace was kept to the minimum tolerance allowed in a pressure barrel. The Ackley Improved case loads then were chronographed and tested for pressure in the same manner as the standard .30-'06 cases.

### Analyzing the results

The results of these tests, as shown in Table 2, failed to reveal any marked superiority of the 'improved' case over the standard version. As indicated by the lower extreme variation in velocity between rounds, the Ackley Improved case did produce more uniform velocities than the standard .30-'06. However, the main results of the pressure and velocity tests seem to favor the standard version of the .30-'06. Pressures for Loads I, II, and III were slightly lower in the Ackley Improved cases than in the orthodox .30-'06, but the velocities were proportionally lower too. Load IV also produced lower velocities in the Ackley case, but pressures were considerably higher than those recorded for the unaltered cases. The capacity powder charge of Load

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Cal. 7 mm, 130 gr. Speer spitzer	4.85
Cal. 7 mm, 130 gr. ABC	4.85
Cal. 7 mm, 140 gr. Speer	4.75
Cal. 7 mm, 160 gr. Speer & Sierra	4.75
Cal. 30, 110 gr. Speer & Hornady	4.35
Cal. 30, 125 gr. Sierra	4.45
Cal. 30/30, 110 gr. Speer rd. nose	4.75
Cal. 30, 150 gr. Speer rd. nose & spitzer	4.75
Cal. 30, 150 gr. Hornady rd. nose & spira pt.	4.75
Cal. 30, 150 gr. Sierra	4.75
Cal. 30/30, 170 gr. Hornady set pt.	5.00
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Cal. 303, 150 gr. 120 gr. Speer	4.75
Cal. 303, (.311") 180 gr. Speer	5.00
Cal. 32 Spl. 170 gr. Speer & Hornady	5.00
Cal. 8 mm, 125 gr. Speer	4.45
Cal. 8 mm, 150 gr. Speer	4.75
Cal. 8 mm, 170 gr. Speer	4.90
Cal. 8 mm, 175 gr. Sierra	5.00
Cal. 348 Win. 180 gr. Speer	5.15
Cal. 348 Win. 220 gr. Speer	5.15
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V in the Ackley case did produce an increase in velocity, but it also resulted in a much higher pressure. In addition, this load showed a marked loss of uniformity in velocities from round to round. Finally, despite the larger case of the 'improved' load, and although the gain in velocity was very slight, the overload produced a much higher pressure in the Ackley Improved case than it did in the standard .30-'06 case.

As a further check on the relative merits of the two cases, we increased the loads in the Ackley Improved cases until the velocities equalled those of the .30-'06 loads already tested. Even though this was but a few feet per second, the resultant increase in chamber pressure was disproportionately high. Further increases in powder charges, working up to maximum pressures, failed to give an appreciable increase in velocity. Powders IMR 4064 and IMR 4895 also were tried with no difference in results.

To complete the experiments, we retested Loads I, II, and III in the .30-'06 case for velocity at maximum pressure levels. Invariably, we were able to secure a slightly greater gain in velocity with the standard .30-'06 case than with the Ackley Improved case.

**Conclusions**

What does this series of tests reveal? Apparently, a higher velocity can be reached at a safe chamber pressure with the standard version of the .30-'06 than the experimenter can attain with the Ackley Improved .30-'06.

Firing identical loads, the Ackley case produced lower velocities than the standard case. Duplication of standard case velocities resulted in undesirable rises in pressure in the 'improved' case. Also, the Ackley Improved case produced a much higher pressure with an overload than the standard case generated with the same load.

Therefore, it would seem evident that the Ackley Improved .30-'06 should not be fired with any load which would not be considered safe in the standard .30-'06 case. Certainly, the 'improved' version is not the case for 'hot' or magnum loads.

In one respect only did the Ackley Improved .30-'06 outperform the unmodified cartridge. It did produce more uniform velocities from round to round; that is, as a look at Table 2 will show, with loads of moderate velocity and pressure.

Actually, we don't believe that this 'improved' case is valueless, for it can produce more uniform velocities, and therefore should be capable of finer accuracy, than the standard .30-'06.

However, in all other respects, in so far as we can discover, the Ackley Improved .30-'06 can not do anything that the normal old-fashioned .30-'06 can't do just as well or better.

# THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

## INDEX

VOLUME 101

1953

The index of Volume 101 of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN has been compiled of major articles for the benefit of those readers whose interest in firearms, hunting, or work with guns requires continued reference to the material which has been published in the magazine.

### A

A Boy's First Pheasant Hunt—June 4  
Accuracy, Yesterday and Today—Clark, Feb. 19  
Ackerman, R. O.—Six Guns and Statutes, July 17  
Address of Dewey Short—Short, May 14  
Adventures in Lead—Kenney, Feb. 41  
A Few Competitive Changes—July 37  
After You've Bought the Shotgun . . .?—Latham, Dec. 40  
All-American Rifle Team—May 60  
A Lone Star Club—Toney, June 26  
A Marmot for the Marksman—Drew, May 30  
An Editorial—Edson, Dec. 16  
An Independent Group of Shooters—Gregory, May 34  
Annual Meeting (1954)—Dec. 28  
Apaches Ride Again (Junior Club)—Palmer, Aug. 18  
Applegate, Rex. Lt. Col. USA Ret.—Lightweight Revolvers, Sept. 45  
A Report on NRA Operations—Edson, May 20  
Arms Training in the Border Patrol—Toney, Nov. 30  
Army Marksmanship—Moellering, Sgt. USA, May 39  
Army Marksmanship Revalued—Cardinal, Feb. 30  
Arrangements for 1953 National Matches—June 17  
As Allowed by Law—Edson, Nov. 16  
As American As Thanksgiving Day (Turkey shoots)—Palmer, Nov. 40  
Askins, Lt. Col. Charles A., Jr.—So You Want to Shoot the 45, Jan. 41  
A Survey of Rifle Scopes—Butler, Sept. 17  
A Tour of Firearms Museums—Peterson, June 40  
A Truly Well-rounded Program—Edson, Oct. 16  
A Village of Gunsmiths—Latham, Dec. 32

### B

Bench Shooting At DuBois—Harper, Jan. 27  
Bird Shooting on the Prairies—Buckingham, Oct. 43  
Bluing vs. Accuracy—Dope Bag, July 50  
Body Armor vs. Aimed Fire—June 4  
Bowman, Hank Wicand—The Cop and the Kids, Apr. 21  
Boyle, W. S.—Gunstock Woods, Jan. 46  
Brown, L. H.—Building the Bullpup Rifle, May 26  
Buchanan, John C.—Free Rifle Experiences, May 44  
Buckingham, Nash—Bird Shooting on the Prairies, Oct. 43  
Buechner, Helmut K.—Does Are Deer, Apr. 24  
Building A Scope—Dope Bag, Aug. 53  
Building the Bullpup Rifle—Brown, May 26  
Burnside, Graham—Can You Identify These? (Cartridges) Nov. 24; Notes on Cartridges, Mar. 49.  
Butler, David F.—A Survey of Rifle Scopes, Sept. 17; Modern Scatterguns, Jan. 23; Scattergun Ammunition, Feb. 26

### C

California's Junior Championship—Wisler, Jan. 20  
Came 4000 Miles to Compete—Oct. 4  
Campbell, Maj. James W.—The Army's Most Controversial Weapon, Dec. 17  
Can You Identify These? (Cartridges)—Burnside, Nov. 24  
Capt. Wheeler's Revolving Guns—Lewis, Lt. Col. USA, Apr. 38  
Cardinal, Paul—Army Marksmanship Revalued, Feb. 30

DECEMBER 1953

Carter, Harlon B.—East Texans Can Shoot, Feb. 13  
Cartridge Standardization—Dope Bag, Aug. 50  
Cast Bullet Loads in the M1—June 20  
Cataloochee Beef Shoot—Vinson, Dec. 44  
Caution on Ball Powder—Dope Bag, Nov. 81  
Clagett, Robert H., Maj.—How the Infantry Tests a Rifle, Oct. 27  
Clark, Sam, Jr.—Accuracy, Yesterday and Today, Feb. 19  
Collector Joins NRA Staff—Nov. 57  
Col. Harland C. Griswold (Obituary)—Sept. 66  
Col. Rau Named New DCM—Aug. 39  
Col. Richard Birtwhistle (Obituary)—Nov. 4.  
Colt .45 Auto—Hoffschmidt, Feb. 44  
Colt Match Target Woodsman—Hoffschmidt, May 54  
Concentrate On Woodshedding Says Mrs. Alice Bull (Shooting Practice)—May 38  
Converting '98 Mauser—Dope Bag, May 69  
Cook, Arthur—Shooting, A la Internationale, Mar. 46  
Crowley, A. J.—Pips from the pip-squeaks (Small-caliber guns), Mar. 38

### D

Daniel, Frank C.—The Gun Law Problem, Feb. 16  
Danish Krag Ammunition—Dope Bag, Apr. 54  
Darby, T. F. Jr.—What the Guides Think, Sept. 23  
DCM Notes—Nov. 69  
Deer Checking Station—Hall, Oct. 53  
de Treville, Stan—Hitting 'em Out Yonder, Oct. 47; Hunting is a Gamble, but—, Aug. 13  
Does Are Deer—Buechner, Apr. 24  
Do Not Rechamber S & W—Dope Bag, Feb. 58  
Dover High School's Rifle Course—July 4  
Dresser, William—That Velvet Blue, June 29  
Drew, Dick—A Marmot for the Marksman, May 30  
Drilling Springfield Receiver—Dope Bag, July 61  
Dunlap, Roy F.—Some Statistics on Elk Kills, June 39  
Dunstan, W. Jr.—The .270 on Buffalo, May 43

### E

Early Paper Cartridges—Peterson, Feb. 33  
East Texans Can Shoot—Carter, Feb. 13  
Edson, M. A.—An Editorial, Dec. 16  
Edson, M. A., Maj. Gen. USMC Ret'd.—A Report on NRA Operations, May 20; As Allowed By Law, Nov. 16; A Truly Well-rounded Program, Oct. 16; Education Versus Legislation, Apr. 12; Gun Safety Through Education, Aug. 12; Hunter Safety Education is never out of Season, June 12; In Your Own Hands, Feb. 12; Our Association—Change and Growth, May 12; Our Sacred Honor, July 12; Sportsmanship, Mar. 14; The Fundamental Principle, Sept. 16; Think Big, Be Big, Jan. 12  
Education for Hunting—Tyler, Sept. 20  
Education Versus Legislation—Edson, Apr. 12  
8 mm. Loads—Dope Bag, July 56  
8 mm. Wildcat—Dope Bag, Jan. 60  
1886 Winchester Conversion—Dope Bag, June 60  
Electric Bedding Do's and Don'ts—Stidworthy, Dec. 43  
Ethen Records Transhooting's Top Average—Warye, Mar. 27  
Expanding Bullets for the .44—Zlatich, May 48

### F

50th Anniversary of National Matches to be Fired This Month—Aug. 38  
Finishing Dural Receivers—Dope Bag, Jan. 58  
Firearms in Feudal Japan—Van Zandt, Nov. 53

Firearms Safety on the Air—Apr. 4  
Firing School Keynotes Nationals—July 20  
.43 Spanish Remington—Dope Bag, Feb. 60  
.44 Dynamite—Zlatich, Feb. 34  
.44 Special Power—Dope Bag, Nov. 85  
.44 Special vs. .357 Magnum—Zlatich, Oct. 38  
.45 Auto Serial Numbers—Dope Bag, Aug. 46  
.455 Webley Conversion—Dope Bag, Oct. 73  
Fisher, Ralph A. Sr.—We Gambled with the Gambels (Quail hunting), Sept. 37  
Free Rifle Experiences—Buchanan, May 44  
From Bridge To Shooting—Myers, Sept. 4  
Fuller, Sid—Great Dane (Danish rifle), Nov. 35

### G

German Muskets Used in American Revolution—Sprague, Oct. 35  
Great Dane (Danish rifle)—Fuller, Nov. 35  
Gregory, Emery G.—An Independent Group of Shooters, May 34  
Grundy, Douglas—How shotguns are made, Mar. 34  
Guard Cartridges—Dope Bag, Feb. 62  
Gun Rigs—Keith, Feb. 23  
Gun Safety Through Education—Edson, Aug. 12  
Gunstock Woods—Boyle, Jan. 46

### H

Hall, Edson W.—Deer Checking Station, Oct. 53  
Hammer, Ralph—The Offhand Shot, Jan. 21  
Harper, J. A.—Bench Shooting at DuBois, Jan. 27  
Harvey, Jim—My 7 mm. and Me, Nov. 49  
Hatcher, J. S., Maj. Gen. USA Ret'd.—The Johnson Semiauto Rifle, June 34  
"Here's How I Did It"—Dec. 34  
Hi-Lights of the Members' Meeting—May 18  
Hitting 'em Out Yonder—de Treville, Oct. 47  
Hoffschmidt, E. J.—Colt .45 Auto, Feb. 44; Colt Match Target Woodsman, May 54; Walther P-38 Pistol, Aug. 32; The Ruger .22 Automatic, Nov. 44  
Howell, Cleves H., Jr.—Make Your Own Muzzle Loader, Jan. 35; The Pursuit of Accuracy, Sept. 35  
How Improved Is It?—Wieman, Dec. 39  
How Shotguns Are Made—Grundy, Mar. 34  
How The Infantry Tests A Rifle—Clagett, Major, Oct. 27  
How to Care For Your Guns—Latham, Jan. 16  
Hudson, C. P.—Snap Shooting Hunting Rifles, Sept. 29  
Hunter Safety Education Is Never Out Of Season—Edson, June 12  
Hunting In The Himalayas—Todd, Apr. 13  
Hunting Is A Gamble, but— —de Treville, Aug. 13  
Hunting the Desert Phantom—Ormond, Sept. 42  
Hutton, Robert—Wildcat Cartridges, Mar. 40

### I

"In My Arms Collection"—Dec. 22  
International Shooting Fund—Apr. 30  
International Shooting Fund Statement—May 45  
In Your Own Hands, Edson—Feb. 12

### J

J. C. Higgins Model 31—Dope Bag, Aug. 72  
J. C. Higgins Rifle—Dope Bag, Nov. 74  
John Farquharson, Rifle Inventor or Master Poacher—Truesdell, Mar. 23

Jury, Frank, Lt.—Modern Firearms Investigation (Pistols and revolvers), July 22; Modern Firearms Investigation (Shoulder weapons), Aug. 24

## K

Keith, Elmer—Gun Rigs, Feb. 23; Rifles for Timber Shooting, Aug. 27; Which Rifle For Long Range Shooting?, July 27  
Kenney, Neil J.—Adventures in Lead, Feb. 41  
Kiboko-Killer (African hunting)—Taber, June 13

## L

Laboratory For Guns—Aug. 34  
Latham, Sid—After You've Bought the Shotgun . . .?, Dec. 40; A Village of Gunsmiths, Dec. 32; How To Care For Your Guns, Jan. 16  
Learning to Shoot—Stanton, Feb. 4  
Lewis, B. R., Lt. Col. USA—Capt. Wheeler's Revolving Guns, Apr. 38  
Libasci, A. M., Col.—Teach Them Young, Jan. 4  
Lightweight Revolvers—Applegate, Lt. Col. USA, Ret'd., Sept. 45  
Lintern, G. E.—Shooting Goes to School, Mar. 32  
Loads for the .38-44—Dope Bag, Nov. 80  
Loads for the 6.5 mm. Mannlicher-Schoenauer—July 35  
Loads for the .308—Sharpe, Jan. 32  
Logan, Herschel C.—Schofield-Smith & Wesson, Dec. 29

## M

Maine, Leonard L.—That Wounded Whitetail Deer, Nov. 46  
Make Your Own Muzzle Loader—Howell, Jan. 35  
Mallas, Pann—Safari Rifles, Nov. 27  
Mark 1 Springfield—Dope Bag, Jan. 58, Mar. 68  
Marksmanship Jamboree—Thomas, Sept. 33  
Martin, John D., Lt.—The Steyr Works, Sept. 50  
Measuring Flash Holes—Dope Bag, May 66  
Miniature Firearms—Oct. 57  
"Mobile arsenals" patrol Jordan Desert—Scofield, June 18  
Model 722—Dope Bag, May 65  
Modern Firearms Investigation (Pistols and revolvers)—Weller & Jury, July 22; (Shoulder weapons), Aug. 24  
Modern Scatterguns—Butler, Jan. 23  
Moellering, John W., Sgt., USA—Army Marksmanship, May 39  
My 7 mm. and Me—Harvey, Nov. 49  
Myers, Betty—From Bridge to Shooting, Sept. 4

## N

National Match Schedule—Apr. 45  
New Collectors' Group Forms—Nov. 70  
New Crossman Air Pistol—Dope Bag, Jan. 58  
New Editor for THE RIFLEMAN—Nov. 57  
New Firearms Bills—Mar. 37, Apr. 19, May 52, June 25  
New Savage Varmint Rifle—Dope Bag, May 64  
9.3 x 62 mm. Load Data—Dope Bag, Jan. 63  
Non-Browning Military Automatics—Weller, Mar. 28  
North-South Skirmish (Muzzleloading match)—Petroni, (Pics.), July 13  
Notes on Cartridges—Burnside, Mar. 49  
NRA Activities at Camp Perry—Oct. 21  
NRA Board of Directors—Nov. 21  
NRA Program Commended—May 6  
NRA Resolutions Evoke Favorable Response—Aug. 4

## O

Offset Scope Mounting—Dope Bag, Apr. 59  
Olympic Pistol—Dope Bag, June 58  
Ormond, Clyde—Hunting the Desert Phantom, Sept. 42  
Ostrander Shotgun—Dope Bag, July 47  
Our Association, Change and Growth—Edson, May 12  
Our Sacred Honor—Edson, July 12  
Outcome of Committee Meetings—Oct. 10

82

## P

Palmer, C. M. Jr.—Apaches Ride Again (Junior club), Aug. 18; As American As Thanksgiving Day (Turkey shoots), Nov. 40; Them Little Pigs (Javalina), Mar. 20  
Peterson, Harold L.—A Tour of Firearms Museums, June 40; Early Paper Cartridges, Feb. 33; The NRA and the Gun Collector, Oct. 26  
Petroni, C. E.—North-South Skirmish (Muzzleloading match), (Pics.), July 13  
Pips From the Pip-Squeaks (Small-caliber guns)—Crowley, Mar. 38  
Pitch of Shotgun Stock—Dope Bag, Oct. 76  
Plans for 1953 National Matches—Mar. 19  
Primers of Service Ammunition—Dope Bag, July 63  
Put Your Buck on the Spot—Van Wormer, Oct. 17

## R

Raemon, Lewis, Col. USA—Rice Fields to Rifle Range, Jan. 13  
Rebarrel It!—Dope Bag, Mar. 68  
Recutting the Muzzleloader—Savoy, Apr. 35  
Reloading the Old .45-60—Dope Bag, Oct. 74  
Remington '03 Receiver Drilling and Tapping—Dope Bag, Nov. 87  
Removing Berdan Primers—Dope Bag, June 60  
Renwick, William G.—The Earliest Known Rifle, Mar. 15  
Rice Fields to Rifle Range—Raemon, Jan. 13  
Rifles for the Big Bear—Williams, Dec. 35  
Rifles for Timber Shooting—Keith, Aug. 27  
Rifle Training in Britain—Weller, Dec. 23  
Ruger Single Action Revolver—Dope Bag, June 57

## S

Safari Rifles—Mallas, Nov. 27  
Savoy, Albert E.—Recutting the Muzzleloader, Apr. 35  
Scattergun Ammunition—Butler, Feb. 26  
Schofield, John—"Mobile arsenals" patrol Jordan Desert, June 18; The Year's Prize Hunting Trophies, Jan. 38  
Scope Mounting—Dope Bag, Feb. 57  
Sears, Robert—The Rifleman's Role in Warfare, Apr. 16  
Semi-Auto Hunting Rifles—Stebbins, Apr. 31  
7 mm. FN Mauser—Dope Bag, July 58  
7.5 mm. French Load—Dope Bag, Nov. 86  
7.92 mm. Ammunition—Dope Bag, Nov. 85  
Sharpe, Phil—Loads for the .308, Jan. 32  
Sheridan 'Knocabout' Pistol—Dope Bag, July 46  
Shooting—A La Internationale—Cook, Mar. 46  
Shooting at Ohio University—William, Dec. 42  
Shooting Champs—Aug. 22  
Shooting for the Handicapped—White, Mar. 4  
Shooting Goes to School—Lintern, Mar. 32  
Short, Dewey—address of Dewey Short, May 14  
Shotgun for a Junior—Dope Bag, Nov. 86  
Shotgun Stock Fit—Dope Bag, Sept. 84, Feb. 57  
Silver Dollars and Clay Pigeons—Sept. 26  
Six Guns and Statutes—Ackerman, July 17  
Snap Shooting Hunting Rifles—Hudson, Sept. 29  
Some Statistics on Elk Kills—Dunlap, June 39  
So You Want to Shoot the .45—Askins, Jan. 41  
Spanish Shotguns—Dope Bag, Sept. 81  
Sporterized Johnson Auto—Dope Bag, Nov. 72  
Sportsmanship—Edson, Mar. 14  
Sprague, Richard Kimball—German Muskets Used in American Revolution, Oct. 35  
Stanton, Charles V.—Learning to Shoot, Feb. 4  
Starrs in My Eyes—Stern, Mar. 43  
Stebbins, Henry M.—Semi-auto Hunting Rifles, Apr. 31  
Stern, Daniel K.—Starrs in my eyes, Mar. 43  
Stidworthy, George J.—Electric Bedding Do's and Don'ts, Dec. 43; Why Not De-fouling Shots?, Apr. 41  
Surplus Springfield Rifles—Nov. 69

## T

Taber, F. Wallace—Kiboko-Killer (African hunting), June 13  
Teach Them Young—Libasci, Jan. 4  
Tedmon, Allyn H.—The Blake .400, Jan. 43  
10-Gauge Magnum Source—Dope Bag, May 66

William A. Tewes (Obituary)—Apr. 51  
That London Oil Finish—Thompson, Feb. 38  
That Velvet Blue—Dresser, June 29  
That Wounded Whitetail Deer—Maine, Nov. 46  
The Army's Most Controversial Weapon—Campbell, Dec. 17  
The Big Trap Shoot of '53—Oct. 60  
The Blake .400—Tedman, Jan. 43  
The Cop and the Kids—Bowman, Apr. 21  
The Earliest Known Rifle—Renwick, Mar. 15  
The Echo of the Sako—Wilson, Oct. 51  
The Fundamental Principle—Edson, Sept. 16  
The Gun Law Problem—Daniel, Feb. 16  
The Johnson Semiauto Rifle—Hatcher, Maj. Gen. USA Ret'd., June 34  
The Marine Corps Matches—July 31  
The NRA and the Gun Collector—Peterson, Oct. 26  
The Offhand Shot—Hammer, Jan. 21  
The Other Nationals—Sept. 63  
The Pursuit of Accuracy—Howell, Sept. 35  
The Rifleman's Role in Warfare—Sears, Apr. 16  
The Ruger .22 Automatic—Hoffschmidt, Nov. 44  
The Schofield-Smith & Wesson—Logan, Dec. 29  
The Steyr Works—Martin, Sept. 50  
The .270 on Buffalo—Dunstan, May 43  
The Year's Prize Hunting Trophies—Schofield, Jan. 38  
Them Little Pigs (Javalina)—Palmer, Mar. 20  
Think Big, Be Big—Edson, Jan. 12  
.38 Special Plinking Rifle—Dope Bag, Aug. 47  
.38-44 to .357 Magnum—Dope Bag, Nov. 80  
.35 Whelen Conversion—Dope Bag, Nov. 85  
.357 Magnum Rifle—Dope Bag, July 52  
.308 in Arisaka—Dope Bag, Jan. 57  
Thomas, Jim—Marksmanship Jamboree, Sept. 33  
Thompson, J. Charles—That London Oil Finish, Feb. 38  
Todd, Burt Kerr—Hunting in the Himalayas, Apr. 13  
Toney, Bill—A Lone Star Club, June 26; Arms Training in the Border Patrol, Nov. 30  
Truesdell, S. R.—John Farquharson, Rifle Inventor or Master Poacher, Mar. 23  
.240 Cobra Accuracy—Dope Bag, Aug. 53  
Tyler, George R.—Education for Hunting, Sept. 20

## V

Van Wormer, Joe—Put Your Buck on the Spot, Oct. 17  
Van Zandt, Howard F.—Firearms in Feudal Japan, Nov. 53  
Vinson, Carlos—Cataloochee Beef Shoot, Dec. 44

## W

Walther P-38 Pistol—Hoffschmidt, Aug. 32  
Warye, Russ—Etchen Records Trapshooting's Top Average, Mar. 27  
Watch That Muzzle—Aug. 17  
We Gambled with the Gambels (Quail hunting)—Fisher, Sept. 37  
Weller, Jac—Modern Firearms Investigation, (Pistols and revolvers), July 22; Modern Firearms Investigation (Shoulder weapons), Aug. 24; Non-Browning Military Automatics, Mar. 28; Rifle Training in Britain, Dec. 23  
Western German Proofmarks—Dope Bag, Aug. 46  
What the Guides Think—Darby, Sept. 23  
Where Do You Shoot?—Dec. 20  
Which Rifle for Long Range Shooting?—Keith, July 27  
White, Lawrence—Shooting for the Handicapped, Mar. 4  
Why Not De-fouling Shots?—Stidworthy, Apr. 41  
Wieman, William F.—How Improved is it?, Dec. 39  
Wildcat Cartridges—Hutton, Mar. 40  
William, Alan—Shooting at Ohio University, Dec. 42  
Williams, Jay P.—Rifles for the Big Bear, Dec. 35  
Wilson, Adam III—The Echo of the Sako, Oct. 51  
Wisler, Russ—California's Junior Championship, Jan. 20  
World War II Springfield—Dope Bag, Mar. 73

## Y

Year Marked by Increased Strength and Activity—May 13  
Your NRA Committees—July 34

## Z

Zlatich, John W.—Expanding Bullets for the .44, May 48; .44 Dynamite, Feb. 34; .44 Special vs. .357 Magnum, Oct. 38

# THE ARMS CHEST

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

1. **Rates:** 30 cents per word including name and address—minimum charge \$3.50. Advertisements must be accompanied by remittance, addressed to "The Arms Chest," American Rifleman, made payable to "National Rifle Association"—1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington 6, D. C. Insertion will not be made until payment is received.

2. **Closing Date:** All advertisements must be received with advance payment by not later than the 1st of the month preceding date of issue. (Example: Jan. 1st for the Feb. issue. Ads received after Jan 1st and not later than Feb. 1st will be inserted in the March issue.)

3. **All Ads Subject to These Conditions:** We reserve the right to edit all copy, and to reject or discontinue any advertisement which we consider not in the best interests of the National Rifle Association.

4. **Transactions Based on Good Faith:** Deliberate misrepresentation, or violation of the codes of good sportsmanship and good business ethics, will constitute grounds for refusal of advertising, and may result in disbarment from N.R.A. membership.

5. **Blind Ads Not Acceptable:** Blind ads, with box numbers only will not be accepted. Give your COMPLETE name and address, to insure prompt and certain delivery of all mail or telegraph replies.

NOTE: Postal authorities no longer are required to provide directory service for even first-class mail which does not carry a complete local address!

6. **How to Count Numerals, Etc.:** Groups of figures are counted as one word (example: .30-30, 250-3000, \$150.00, \$1.50). Abbreviations consisting of initials or single characters are counted as one word (example: W. H. Smith (W. H. counts as one word); H. B., meaning heavy

barrel, etc.; W. H. and H. B. are one word. Hyphenated words are counted as two words (example: 20-gauge, pearl-handled, no-slip).

7. **No Responsibility for Illegible Copy:** The publishers are not responsible for errors in printing advertisements, due to illegible copy; type or print clearly all ads.

8. **All Articles to Be Properly Described:** To avoid misunderstandings the condition of every advertised article should be described in accordance with the following definitions, NEW—not previously sold at retail, in same condition as current factory production; NEW-DISCONTINUED—same as NEW, but discontinued model. The following definitions will apply to all SECOND-HAND articles: PERFECT—in new condition, in every respect; EXCELLENT—new condition, used but little, no noticeable marring of wood or metal, bluing perfect (except at muzzle or sharp edges); VERY GOOD—in perfect working condition, no appreciable wear on working surfaces, no corrosion or pitting, only minor surface dents or scratches; GOOD—in safe working condition, minor wear on working surfaces, no broken parts, no corrosion or pitting that will interfere with proper functioning; FAIR—in safe working condition but well worn, perhaps requiring replacement of minor parts or adjustments which should be indicated in advertisement, no rust but may have corrosion pits which do not render article unsafe or inoperable; POOR—badly worn, perhaps requiring major adjustments or repairs to place in operating condition.

9. **WARNING TO PURCHASERS:** The publishers will accept no responsibility for any unsatisfactory transaction involving articles which have not been described in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 8. Purchasers or traders should therefore insist that sellers give clear descriptions of all articles, in accordance

with these standards—before any transactions are consummated. Purchasers should also request shipment by express C.O.D., with examination privileges; the purchaser may (and should) then examine the shipment in his local express office—if unsatisfactory the article will then be returned by the express company to the shipper, at the latter's expense.

10. **The National Firearms Act** controls the possession and the sale of the following: (a) Full automatic machine guns; (b) Rifles and shotguns with barrels less than 18 inches in length or 16 inches in the case of a weapon of .22 or smaller caliber; (c) Handguns such as the Mauser or Luger automatic pistols, when such weapons are accompanied by a detachable butt stock.

The above firearms may be sold or transferred only after the payment of the special tax required by Section 2720, Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE:—"Barrel length", as it applies to the above, is determined by the insertion of a cleaning rod from the muzzle until it comes to rest against the face of the closed breech.

11. **The Federal Firearms Act** requires that "dealers" in firearms and ammunition must be licensed to transport, ship or receive any firearm or ammunition in interstate or foreign commerce.

Any dealer requiring a license under the Federal Firearms Act, may secure an application (Form 7) from the District Director of Internal Revenue for the area in which his business is located.

Copies of the National and Federal Firearms Acts may be obtained from N.R.A. on request.

12. **Fair Trade Laws:** Advertising will not be accepted for articles to be sold in violation of Fair Trade laws, after the manufacturer has advised the N.R.A. that such violation exists.

## FOR SALE

FOR SALE: KENTUCKIES, SLUG RIFLES, muskets, pistols, old cartridges. Buy — Sell Trade. Guns sold at Old Timer's Gun Shop only. No lists. Maj. Hugh Smiley, Hennick 10, N. H.

SIMPLIFIED ENGINE TURNING TOOL, three tips, \$1.00, Postpaid. R. E. Hutchinson, Sutton, Mass.

FLASH SALE: F.N. BARRELED ACTIONS in hand rubbed select walnut stocks checkered 20 lines to the inch, \$125.00. Also new F.N. 7mm set in hand finished curly maple stock. Weaver K2.5 scope in Weaver detachable top mounts, with handloading tools, bullets, powder, primers, scale, \$265.00. Sam Schatz, 173 Harrison Ave., Franklin Square, N. Y.

ENFIELD RIFLE, CUSTOM MADE BY Winchester, cal. 405, Winchester, cheek piece stock, micrometer rear sight. Excellent condition. \$85.00. Public Sport Shops, 11 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.

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NEW FREE BARGAIN LISTING ON RIFLES, binoculars, and cameras. Nidorg and Co., 14 Washington Place, New York 3, New York.

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VARMINT AND GAME LOADS. FORMED cases .219 Wasp, .22-250, \$7.00 per 100, .250-3000 \$5.00, once-fired cases .30-30, .300 Sav. \$3.00. Hornet \$2.00, bullets, Sierra, Hornady, Speer. Casey's Custom Loading Service, Box 7, Manchester, N. H.

FOR SALE: WALNUT, CHERRY AND curly maple gunstock blanks sawed to patterns. L. G. Stockberger, Garrettsville, Ohio.

RIFLE, WINCHESTER, MODEL 52, SLOW load. Good condition. Standard barrel, standard factory sights, \$39.50. Send coin 25¢ for new list of Antique and Modern Firearms and Accessories available. Public Sport Shops, 11 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.

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GENUINE NAVY OXFORDS, FINEST black calfskin \$8.45 prepaid. A. R. Rudolph's, Atchison, Kansas.

FREE COPY OF AMERICA'S LARGEST GUN LIST. Published monthly. Write: Shotgun News, Columbus, Nebraska.

TWO CASED PISTOLS PAIRS, EXCELLENT: Egg, London, flintlock, full forearm, rounded checked butts, 7½" oct. blued bls. 46 cal. parts engraved, silver trimmings, complete accessories, 8½", \$165.00. Tipping, London, percussion, 3" oct. bls. 46 cal. trap triggers, swivel, ramrods, checked, trimmed, engraved, 7½". Mould, key, cleaning rod missing, \$50.00. N. F. Miller, Jr., 3063 Geddes, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

SHOT GUN, 12 GAUGE, DIAMOND GRADE Daily, double barrel hammerless, two sets of barrels, #1 set, 28½ inch modified and improved cylinder. #2 set, 28 inch modified and full choke, single trigger, automatic ejectors, high comb. fancy walnut stock, excellent condition, \$500.00. Send coin 25¢ for new list of Antique and Modern Firearms and Accessories available. Public Sport Shops, 11 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.

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OFFERING AN EXCELLENT SELECTION of high class antique firearms and military curiosities for discriminating collectors. No lists. Write us your wants or visit our display rooms. "The House of Guns," R.D. #1, Morris Plains, N. J. Display room on N. J. Highway #10, two miles West of Route 202. Open daily including Sundays.

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"Our first ads in the 'Arms Chest' produced so many orders from both consumers and dealers we expanded our facilities and are now running a sizable schedule of display ads in *The Rifleman*, with excellent results."

Many thriving businesses have been built up from very modest beginnings, thru small classified ads in these columns. Our more than 300,000 member-readers are always on the alert for new products or services which will add to the pleasure of their hobbies, or the comfort and happiness of themselves and their families. The cost of these classified ads is extremely low—only 30¢ per word, for a well-distributed national circulation.

Copy for the February issue must reach us by positively not later than January 1st.

See above for full instructions.

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**AN UNSOLICITED TRIBUTE**  
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"Just a line to tell you how pleased I am with my new Bantamweight. It is the most beautiful rifle I have ever seen—I couldn't believe it would be possible to make it so light!  
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With B&L 2 1/2 X scope & mount as shown, \$310.75

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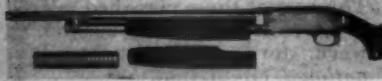
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Extension semi-fancy walnut forearms, handrubbed, longer and larger hand-hold. Improve your shooting. For Winchester Models 12, 25, 97, 42, Ithaca Models 37, 37-R, Remington Models 10, 31, 978. All gauges. Also conventional forearms for Winchester 1911-SL, Browning Auto. 12 gauge, Savage 7.20—12 gauge. All forearms \$7.00 postpaid. Give gauge and model of your gun when ordering.  
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BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM" .300 H AND H Magnum Mauser, Hartley Inlaid stock, Alaskan All-Weather, dot, Stith Master, sling, pad, excellent, \$250.00. Beautiful custom 270 F.N. Mauser, Hartley inlaid stock, featherweight barrel, K4 Weaver, dot, Stith Master, sling, pad, excellent, \$250.00. Win. M94, .25/35, Lyman peep, pad, V.G. \$50.00. Win. M42, .410, excellent, \$60.00. Leather case, several boxes shells each gun. Dr. Don Rush, 150 Basil, Encinitas, Calif.

FOR SALE: ARMS LITERATURE — OLD Catalogs — Books — Pamphlets. Send for Bargain list and information card. Hugh Smiley, Henniker, 10, N. H.

GUN BOOKS. FREE CATALOG. BARGAIN prices. Pioneer Press 104, Harriman, Tenn.

120 PAGE PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED catalog crammed with antique pistol, sword, dagger, etc., values sent on receipt of 50¢. Robert Abels, R860 Lexington Ave., New York 21.

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TO DEALERS: WE OFFER DEALERS prices on Army rifle scabbards, holsters, slings, etc. Send for list. Glendale Industries, 368 W. 50th Street, New York, N. Y.

BRAND NEW GUN CASES. MADE OF heavy waterproof canvas. Leather and plastic trimmed, for all types of rifles, carbines and shotguns. Sizes 41 to 52 inches. Also shotgun take-down types, 28 and 30 inches. Available in regular widths. Also wide widths to accommodate scopes. Please state overall length or type of gun. Worth double our price of \$2.45 each, Postpaid, or 2 for \$4.50. No C.O.D.'s. Money back guarantee. Life Member, Philip Jay Medicus, Dept. A-12, 18 Fletcher Street, New York 38, N. Y.

MAUSER SPORTER RIFLE, 9 MM. EXCELLENT, sheepskin case, cleaning rod, 22 cartridges \$85.00. C. J. Meyers, 73 Avery Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

BOOK COLLECTORS ATTENTION: BRAND new copies, 2nd edition, "The Gun Digest, \$1.25 Postpaid. Wanted: Pre-war 4 1/2" Woodsman. Wahrenbrock's, 649 Broadway, San Diego, Calif.

.207 CUSTOM SPRINGFIELD ACTION, altered bolt, Herter stock, Buchmiller barrel, ramp front, Redfield receiver, \$125.00, with K.V. on side mount, \$175.00, excellent, .30-'06 Enfield, altered bolt, ramp front, Lyman receiver, Bishop stock, very good, \$75.00. H. F. Snook, 3123 S. Tekoa, Spokane 36, Washington.

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delivered **OVER YOUR FIREPLACE**  
Genuine century-old guns or pistols. Symbols of our American heritage. Many types in stock.  
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THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

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Sheepskin lined with leather outer cover. Ideal for all types of winter work. Sizes: Small, Med., Large.



**269 PR**

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Same as original B-9 Parka. Length 32". Body of 9 oz. Government sateen Mountain Cloth. Body & sleeves fully lined with 16ozs. of quilted and covered wool. Has heavy-duty zipper front with button-down storm tabs. Full-cut Mouton fur lined hood with button around storm cuff, draw strings and goggle strap. Coat has elastic inset across back for snug fit. Two, deep slash breast pockets and two roomy side pockets - all with storm flaps. Button-down shoulder tabs. Sleeves have adjustable cuff and inside knit storm cuffs. Color: Olive drab. Sizes: 34-46 \$22.95 Large Sizes: 48-50 ..... \$26.25

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Install this set of desk phones for perfect two-way communication from any two points up to 100 feet apart. This handsome set comes in a blue enamel finish. Consists of two phones, 25 ft. of wire and simple hook-up instructions. Operates on ordinary flashlight batteries. Here is the ideal set for use in room to room, house to garage, house to barn, office to office, shop to office and many other places. Supply is limited. ORDER TODAY!!

**Only 750**

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FOR RESERVE GAS SUPPLY - Holds 5 GAL. Has screw top and will take standard flex nozzle. .... **139 EA** FLEX NOZZLE ..... **49¢**



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Here's the answer to the camper's and picnicker's dreams of a perfect camp table. Lightweight and portable with attached folding seats. Has brown baked enamel finish over heavy gauge sheet steel frame and legs. Golden-yellow top of triple-tested plastic is stain, burn and moisture resistant - easy to wipe clean with a damp rag. Size open is 33"x29". SEATS 4 COMFORTABLY. Each seat is on a corner. Legs fold in like a suitcase to make a package 33x14½x4-inches which carries like a suitcase with handy handle.

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Reads from 0 to 1 inch in .001. Has ratchet stop and lock nut. Decimal chart on frame. One of the finest quality, imported, precision tools on the market. Case & wrench included at this low price. **\$12.50 VALUE NOW 975**



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Recommended by Gen. J.S. Hatcher in April '52 issue of American Rifleman. Loads six pellets in patented magazine. Has higher muzzle velocity than any other air gun. No pumping needed - just cock and fire. Has an ALL STEEL rifled barrel, 7-3/4" long. Looks and feels like a Luger. Blue steel finish with walnut colored TENITE stock. Shoots .177 caliber pellets or darts. Ideal for shooting small game or targets. Fully guaranteed. **1795**

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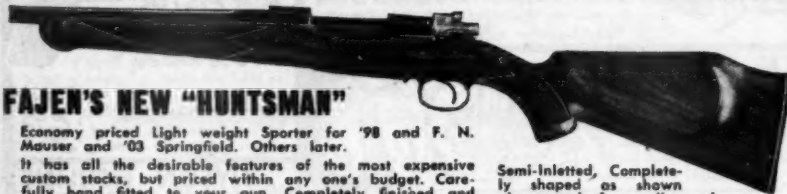
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DECEMBER 1953

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New beauty for old & worn guns—just wipe on, wipe off. Instant deep blue finish that actually penetrates the steel. Blends with old blue—takes seconds. Used by all leading gun factories.  
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(Regular 1936 price \$21.00) 50 shot. for collectors & experimenters made makers, slight spots out. used. \$2.95, excellent, \$7.50, new \$10.00.

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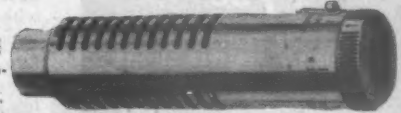
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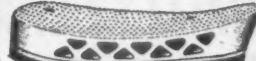
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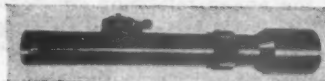
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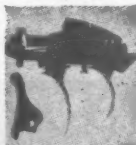


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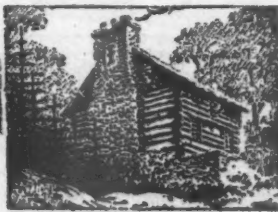
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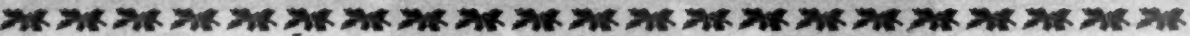
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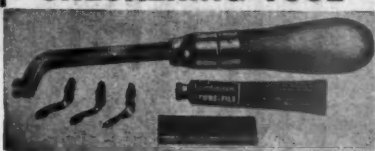
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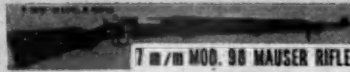
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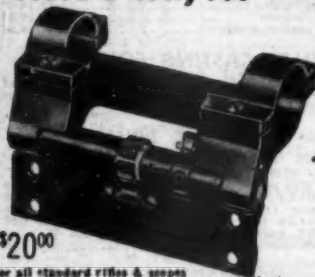
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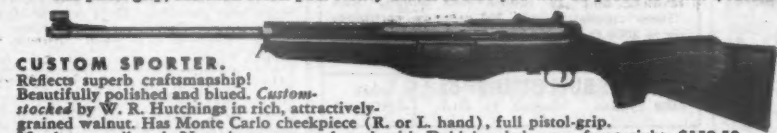
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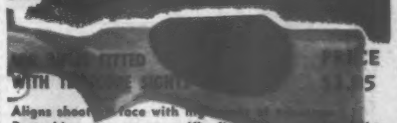
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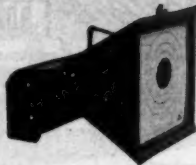
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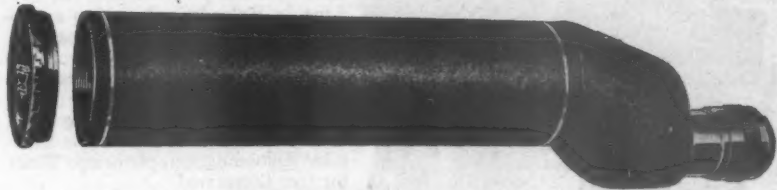
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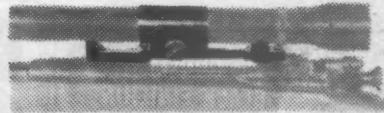
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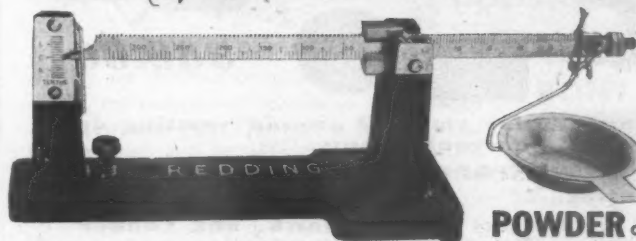
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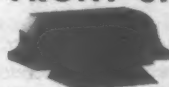
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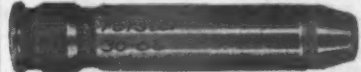
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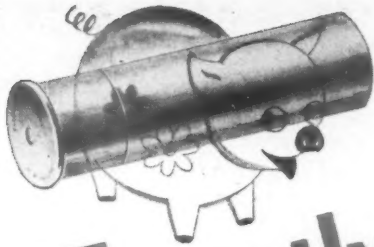
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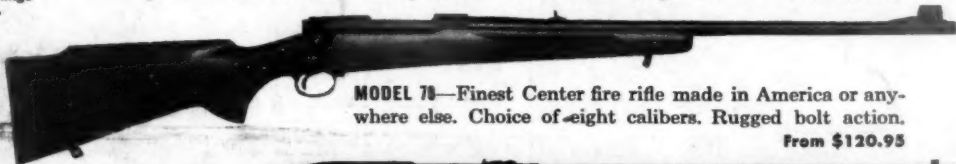


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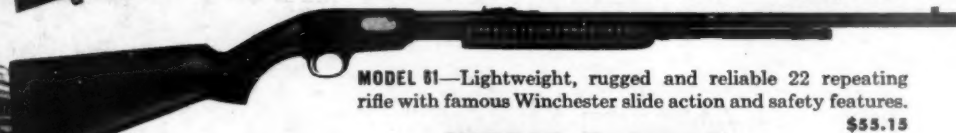
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